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OBSERVATIONS

ON THE

Inhabitants, Climate, Soil, Rivers, Productions, Animals, and other matters worthy of Notice.

MADE BY

Mr. *JOHN BARTRAM*,

K.

In his Travels from

PENSILVANIA

TO

ONONDAGO, OSWEGO and the Lake ONTARIO,

In *CANADA*.

To which is annex'd, a curious Account of the

CATARACTS at *NIAGARA*.

By Mr. PETER KALM,

A *Swediſh* GENTLEMAN who travelled there.

Jos: Banks

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PREFACE.

THE following Journal was kept by Mr. *John Bartram*, in his travels from his own houſe near *Philadelphia* to *Onondago*, and *Oſwego* on the *Cadarakin* or *Ontario Lake*. It is a misfortune to the publick, that this ingenious perſon had not a literal education, it is no wonder therefore, that his ſtile is not ſo clear as we could wiſh, however, in every piece of his, there are evident marks of much good ſenſe, penetration, and ſincerity, join'd to a commendable curioſity. It was to gratify this diſpoſition, and that of his correſpondents requeſt in *England*, that he undertook, after other expeditions, to accompany Mr. *Weiſar* on the buſineſs of the government, and was honoured with the encouragement of ſome very judicious and generous noblemen *here*, ſince dead, and the friendſhip of the skilfulleſt botaniſts in *Europe*.

It may be proper to inform the reader, that the negotiations ſet on foot in the conferences here related, produced a congreſs at *Lancaſter* in *Penſilvania*, begun the 22d of *June* following, which was attended with the wiſh'd for ſucceſs, in an amicable adjuſtment of all differences between the parties, under the mediation of the governor of *Penſilvania*. This treaty was print-

ed the ſame year at *Philadelphia*, and is to be found in Mr. *Colden's hiſtory of the 5 Indian Nations*. A book worthy of the readers peruſal.

This journal was by ſeveral accidents prevented from arriving in *England* till *June* 1750, and is now made publick without the author's knowledge, at the inſtance of ſeveral gentlemen, who were more in number than could conveniently peruſe the manuſcript. Had he intended it for publication he would have made it probably more entertaining and perhaps have retrenched ſome parts that make the leaſt figure in it.

The friend to whom he ſent it, thought himſelf not at liberty to make any material alteration, though as it now appears, many who ſeek only amuſement in what they read, will in thoſe places be diſappointed where only are treated of the ſeveral plants with which nature has bountifully covered the hills and valleys he travers'd, with the various qualities of the ſoil and climate.

But when it is conſider'd, of how great importance an intimate acquaintance with the natural ſtate of this vaſt wilderneſs, and its capacity of further improvement is to *Great Britain*, and how little the endeavours of our countrymen have yet advanced this work, while we are indebted to our moſt dangerous rivals for the little we do know, who will, if poſſible, repay themſelves by excluding us from all we do not actually cultivate, and leave us *that only* while they want power to take it from us: I cannot but

but think this plain yet ſenſible piece merits attention. It is by purſuing the diſcovery of the interior ſtate of this great continent, that we can ſcarcely fail attaining and end, the moſt worthy the aim of a great maritime power, honoured as well as ſtrengthened by a fair progeny of the moſt flouriſhing colonies in the world, and of which a good *Engliſhman* with peculiar pleaſure will find *P. Charlevoix* confeſſing (however unwilling to own any thing inconſiſtent with the glory of his country) *that* France *cannot behold them without Terror.*

Knowledge muſt precede a ſettlement, and when *Penſilvania* and *Virginia* ſhall have extended their habitations to the branches of the *Miſſiſſippi* that water theſe provinces, on the weſt ſide of the *Blue Mountains*, we may reaſonably hope to inſure a ſafe and eaſy communication with the moſt remote known parts of *North America*, and to ſecure the poſſeſſion of a dominion unbounded by any preſent diſcoveries.

If this deſirable proſpect appear chimerical, becauſe great and diſtant, it is at leaſt true, that no obſtacle can be pointed out, but what we may eaſily remove.

England already poſſeſſes an uninterrupted line of well-peopled provinces on the coaſt, ſucceſſively begun within leſs than 150 years, ſhe ſees them every year augmented by an acceſſion of ſubjects, excited by the deſire of living under governments and laws formed on the moſt excellent model upon earth. In vain do we look for-

an equal proſperity among the plantations of other *European* nations becauſe every power has tranſplanted its conſtitution with its people. This ſurprizing increaſe of people is a foundation that will bear a mighty ſuperſtructure, we need no other proof than in the wonderful growth of one of the provinces, (*Penſilvania* I mean) which tho' the youngeſt of all, yet being more particularly founded on the principles of moderation (*the firſt of all political Virtues*) and every way fam'd for the wiſdom and lenity of its government, is become the admiration of thoſe who compare it with any thing related by hiſtory, and the well-known refuge of —— *the oppreſs'd and perſecuted*, who chearfully abandon their native ſoil to purchaſe the ineſtimable bleſſings of liberty and peace.

The inhabitants of all theſe colonies have eminently deſerved the character of induſtrious in agriculture and commerce. I could wiſh they had as well deſerved that of *adventurous in inland diſcoveries*, in this they have been much outdone by *another Nation*, whoſe poverty of country and unſettled temper have prompted them to ſuch views of extending their poſſeſſions, as our agriculture and commerce now make neceſſary for us to imitate. In this skilful Perſons may employ themſelves; but a more accurate obſerver than our author will not readily be found.

The welfare of a colony concerns the country from whence it derives its origin, in nothing ſo much

much as in the quantity of land broke up for tillage, the natural conſequence of extending the frontier ſettlements. This is not only beneficial in proportion to the increaſe of vent, among the new ſettlers of comodities exported from the mother country; but by preventing the additional hands from applying themſelves to ſuch manufactures as may interfere with the commerce, *effectually hinders* a michief that might ſtop the advantages reaped before. A jealouſy has long prevailed at home, of manufactures in *America*, and it has been uſual for our manufacturers on various occaſions to expreſs this opinion in frequent applications to parliament, vainly hoping to force a conſumption abroad from the weakeſt of all reſources, *prohibitary laws*: But the wiſdom of the legiſlature has provided the moſt effectual, if not the only remedy, by encouraging the vent of the growths of *America*, and thereby engaging the inhabitants to employ themſelves in raiſing them; a conduct grounded on the invariable obſervation, that perfection in agriculture naturally precedes manufactures, wherever a country finds a market for its produce ſufficient to provide itſelf with the latter.

Mr. *Kalm*'s narrative of his travels to the *Falls of Niagara*, is a proper ſupplement to the journey to *Oſwego*, his voyage begins from that place, and caries us on further in the ſearch of every thing worthy our notice in this country: This gentleman is well known to be

a man of worth and great skill in natural hiſtory, and his little piece beſides the candour and veracity of the writer, derives a great value from its being the only account in our language of this ſtupendous object. *P. Charlevoix* an Author of good credit, (*where the intereſt of his nation and religion are unconcerned*) has given us a deſcription perfectly agreeable to Mr. *Kalm*'s, tho' much leſs circumſtantial: It was in 1722, *he* was on the ſpot, and the heights had not then probably been taken by inſtruments, for he ſeems to think it very difficult if poſſible; He gueſſes the great Fall to be 140 or 150 feet from a meaſure taken by ſounding; and adds, that he has ſeen ſmall birds flutter juſt above the fall itſelf; we have likewiſe an account of this cataract *Phil. Trans.* N°. 371. p. 69. *from Mr. Boruſſan* tranſmitted by Mr. *Dudley*. Mr. *Boruſſan* relates that the *Governor* of *Canada*'s ſon the *Marquis de Cavagnal* had ſounded it, and fixed the perpendicular fall at 26 fathom, this was alſo in 1722.

I cannot help taking notice of the alarm Mr. *Kalm*'s arrival gave the *French* at *Niagara*. They are conſcious their enjoyment of this Fort is a manifeſt violation of the treaty of *Utrecht* tho' they know the juſtice of the *Engliſh Nation* will not permit them to compell the *Seneka*'s againſt their inclination to diſlodge them.

Among other curious parts of Mr. *Bartram*'s journal are his thoughts (thrown together at the end) on the Origin of the *Aborigines* of *America*;

rica; theſe conjectures are ſhort, and it is likely occurr'd to him caſually, perhaps they are not all well grounded, or at moſt apply'd to any but the *Eskimaux*, however, the ſame ſentiments on this ſubject have been ſupported by the learned *Grotius* in his treatiſe *de Origine Gentium Americanarm*, and in his reply to *J. de Laet*.

This queſtion has long been agitated with great warmth, and every ſolution of it hitherto, has found oppoſers, becauſe thoſe who have engaged in the controverſy have forgot, or wilfully miſtook, that the point in diſpute cannot reaſonably be, whether it was actually peopled from one or more particular places? but whether it might probably be peopled conſiſtent with the *Moſaick* hiſtory; other wiſe it would be hard to ſay, how all this enquiry has been ſo much confined to *America*, when the paſſage of the inhabitants to many other parts of the globe is attended with equal difficulties.

P. Charlevoix who has with great exactneſs abſtracted the opinions and arguments of the writers on this ſubject, has obſerved, that beſides the eaſy paſſage by ſea from the coaſt of *Guinea* to that of *Brazil:* If it has not yet been demonſtrated that the new world is contiguous to the old on the South, North-Eaſt and North-Weſt, at leaſt the contrary has not been ſhewn, ſo that the principal difficulties to be encountered, ariſe not from the want of a Paſſage, but from colour, manner, and language, which ſeem irreconcileable to any we are acquainted

quainted with on this ſide the Globe. But are the *Negroes* in *Guinea* more ſimilar in theſe reſpects, to the reſt of the world? Let any one tell me, why moſt of the *Africans* are black and woolly-pated, and I will ſhew him why the *Americans* are red and without hair on their chins, and many parts of their bodies. After all are we ſufficiently acquainted with the utmoſt powers of nature? to be ſure the offspring of the ſame pair in 3 or 4000 years might without a ſupertural interpoſition become of various complexions, and ſuppoſe we were convinced of this, may not the infinite power that created our firſt parents, and miraculouſly wrought the confuſion of tongues, have thus diſtinguiſh'd their poſterity for purpoſes only known to his infinite wiſdom. I ought not to omit that *P. Charlevoix* recommends a careful obſervation of thoſe *Amrican* languages, that have the marks of being original, and a compariſon of them with thoſe of *Europe*, *Aſia*, and *Africa*, and gives very judicious Reaſons for depending on a ſimilitude in this, preferable to that of manners; I ſhall only add, that Mr. *Lewis Evans* a companion of our author's in this journey, and a skilfull ſurgeon, has lately publiſh'd a map of *New York*, *Penſilvania*, and *Jerſey*, with part of *Virginia*, *Maryland* and *New-England*, chiefly founded on actual ſurveys. This map includes the route here deſcribed, which ſeems laid down very exactly. And is ſold by Mr. *Bowle's* map and print-ſeller in *Cornhill*.

OBSERVA-

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MADE BY

Mr. *JOHN BARTRAM*,

In his Journey from

Penſilvania to *Onondago*, &c.

THE 3*d* of *July* 1743, I ſet out from my houſe on *Skuylkil River*, with *Lewis Evans*, and travelled beyond *Perkiomy Creek* the firſt day. The weather was exceeding hot. The 4*th*, we ſet out before day, and ſtopp'd at *Marcus Hulin*'s by *Manatony*; then croſſed *Skuylkil*, and rode along the weſt ſide over rich bottoms, after which we aſcended the *Flying Hill*, (ſo called from the great number of wild Turkeys that uſed to fly from them to the plains) here we had a fine proſpect of the *Blue Mountains*, and over the rich *Vale of Tulpehocken*; the deſcent into which is ſteep and ſtoney. Through this vale we travelled weſt,

weſt, and by the way obſerved a large ſpring 16 feet deep, and above 20 yards wide, which iſſued out of a limeſtone rock, the ground about it pretty level, deſcending gradually towards the ſpring which ran eaſtward. At at night we lodged at *Conrad Weiſers*, who is the general Interpreter, and who went with us; his buſineſs was to ſettle an affair with the *Indians* at *Onondago*.

The *5th*, We croſſed *Tulpehocken Creek* which runs eaſt, and emptieth itſelf into *Skuylkil*, and a little after a ſmall branch of *Swataro* which runs Weſt into *Suſquehanah*. Theſe two large creeks receive moſt of the water of that great rich vale between the *Flying Hills* and *Tulpehocken Hill*, from which the vale and creek receive their names, and is itſelf ſo called from the *Indian* word ſignifying a tortoiſe, unto which the natives of the country have conceived it bears ſome ſimilitude. And theſe two hills are the ſouthern boundary of this fine limeſtone vale, many hundred miles long, and from 10 to 20 miles broad to the northern boundary formed by the *Great Blue Mountains*.

Having called on a man who was to go with us and carry part of our proviſions to *Shamokin*, he could not get his horſe ſhod that day, but we rode to *William Parſons's* plantation, who received and entertained us very

very kindly; his houſe is about ſix miles from the *Blue Mountains.*

The 6*th*, we ſet forward and aſcended the firſt *Blue ridge*, from the top of which we made an obſervation, *Conrad Weiſers Hill* bearing ſouth 20 degrees eaſt, the northern proſpect to two gaps, thro' which we were to paſs to the *North Hill*, N. 30 deg. W. about 10 miles diſtant. The top and ſouth ſide of this ridge is midling land, half a quarter of a mile broad, and produced ſome wild graſs, abundance of fern, oak and cheſnut trees. Deſcending the North ſide we found it more poor, ſteep and ſtony, and came ſoon to the firſt branch of *Swataro* which runs between the ridges, and is 3 miles from the next branch, all very poor land; but on this ſecond branch it is good low land, with large trees of 5 leaved white pine, poplar, and white oak, here we dined by a ſpruce ſwamp.

After dinner we paſſed the openings of two ridges, the laſt of which was by the bank of the principal branch of *Swataro*, the ſoil poor and ſtoney; then we aſcended a great ridge about a mile ſteep, and terribly ſtoney moſt of the way: near the top is a fine tho' ſmall ſpring of good water. At this place we were warned by a well known alarm to keep our diſtance from an enraged rattle ſnake that had put himſelf into a coiled poſture of defence, within a dozen yards of our path, but

we puniſhed his rage by ſtriking him dead on the ſpot: he had been highly irritated by an *Indian* dog that barked eagerly at him, but was cunning enough to keep out of his reach, or nimble enough to avoid the ſnake when he ſprung at him. We took notice that while provoked, he contracted the muſcles of his ſcales ſo as to appear very bright and ſhining, but after the mortal ſtroke, his ſplendor became much diminiſhed, this is likewiſe the caſe of many of our ſnakes.

The north ſide of the Hill is not ſo ſtony as the ſouth, but yet very poor. Thence we traveled 7 miles over ſeveral hollows, ſwamps and ſmall ridges, full of ſcrubby buſhes, and ſtill poor and ſtoney to the laſt great ridge, which is compoſed chiefly of large gravel, as big as pidgeons or pullets eggs, and even the rocks ſeemed but heaps of the ſame materials; the deſcent on the north ſide is very ſteepand rocky, large craggy rocks are diſpoſed on all ſides, moſt part of the way down, which brought us to a fine vale, where we lodged by a creek called *Saurel*, and were grievouſly ſtung all night with ſmall gnats, ſo that I ſlept very little.

The *7th*, we ſet out weſt from *Saurel* creek and traveled down the vale, which is pretty good land: and leaving the creek, ſoon croſſed another runing along the north ſide of the vale, by the bank of which we rode through a grove of

of white Pine, very lofty aud ſo cloſe, that the Sun could hardly ſhine through; at the end of this the two branches joined. Riding a little farther, we paſſed through a gap of a moderate hill, north by the creek ſide, where we found a fiſhing place, moſtly a deep hole near a rock; there we went weſt on the north ſide of the creek, and dined at what is called the *Double Eagle*. The land hereabouts is middling white oak and huckleberry land, and by the creek ſide pretty good wild graſs, and the 3d branch enters about 30 rood below; having croſſed this, we went up a vale of middling ſoil, covered with high oak Timber, nearly weſt to the top of the hill, (moſt of the way being a white clay under a ſhallow ſurface), where we firſt obſerved the impreſſion of ſhells in ſome of the looſe ſtones, and from whence we had a fair proſpect of the river *Suſquehanah*.

The deſcent from hence ſoon brought us to *Mohony*, our lodging for this night. Here the ſoil is very good throughout the neck, formed by the river and the creek, which is about 3 poles wide. It rained this night through our old, tho' newly erected lodging, which was an *Indian Cabin* that we took the liberty to remove, knowing they uſually leave behind them a good ſtock of fleas on the ground they inhabit; however, the wet deprived me of my

reſt

reſt that I had taken ſo much pains to ſecure againſt the vermin.

July 8. We croſſed the creek and rode along a rich bottom near the river for two miles, producing moſt kinds of our foreſt trees, and a large ſpecies of *Scutelaria* two feet high: thence along the river ſide, near a mile N. 20 deg. E. to the foot of a fertile hill, where leaving the river, our way N. E. through ſeveral narrow valleys and over ſmall hills, generally middling land, yielding oak, hickery, cheſnut, and ſome pine, to the ſummit of a high hill, where we ſaw *Shamokin Hill*, diſtant four miles only; going down we came to uneven ſtony ground producing pitch pine and oak, as far as the point of *Shamokin Hill*, whence we had a pleaſant proſpect of the fall of the river, quite croſs without any great Rocks. The ſtream runs very ſwift, but canoes or flat-bottomed boats may go up or down well enough: the bottom of this deſcent is waſhed by *Shamokin Creek* three rods wide, this we forded to a fruitful bottom half a mile wide, beyond which, two miles good oak land brought us to the town of *Shamokin*. It contains eight cabbins near the river's bank right oppoſite the mouth of the weſt branch that interlocks with the branches of *Allegheny*. It is by means of this neighbourhood that we may reaſonably hope, when theſe parts ſhall be better known, that a very

beneficial

beneficial Trade may be extended through the *Hokio* into the *Miſſiſſippi* and its branches among the numerous nations that inhabit their banks. It were to be wiſhed, that the *Engliſh* government in theſe parts had been more diligent in ſearching and ſurveying the heads of their own rivers and the ſources of the others that run weſtwards from the backs of their reſpective provinces. Yet enough is already known to juſtify the ſurmiſes of *Mr. de la Sale*, who in his Journal addreſſed to the *Count de Frontenac* expreſſes his fears, leſt the *Engliſh*, from their ſettlements, ſhould poſſeſs themſelves of the trade on the *Miſſiſſippi*. I quartered in a trader's cabbin, and about midnight the *Indians* came and called up him and his ſquaw, who lay in a ſeparate part where the goods were depoſited, whether together or no I did not ask. She ſold the *Indians* rum, with which being quickly intoxicated, men and woman began firſt to ſing and then dance round the fire; then the women would run out to other cabbins and ſoon return, leaving the men ſinging and dancing the war dance, which continued all the next day. An *Engliſhman* when very drunk will fall faſt aſleep for the moſt part, but an *Indian*, when merry, falls to dancing, running, and ſhouting, which violent action probably may diſperſe the fumes of the liquor, that had he ſat ſtill or remained quiet, might have made

made him drowſy, and which is even carries off by continued agitation.

As ſoon as we alighted they ſhewed us where to lay our baggage, and then brought us a bowl of boiled ſquaſhes cold; this I then thought poor entertainment, but before I came back I had learnt not to deſpiſe good *Indian* food. This hoſpitality is agreeable to the honeſt ſimplicity of antient times, and is ſo punctually adhered to, that not only what is already dreſſed is immediately ſet before a traveller, but the moſt preſſing buſineſs is poſtponed to prepare the beſt they can get for him, keeping it as a maxim that he muſt always be hungry, of this we found the good effects in the fleſh and bread they got ready for us.

July 9. After breakfaſt *Lewis Evans* and myſelf went to the point of the mountain cloſe to the N. E. branch, a mile and half up the river from our lodging, and good level rich land all the way; we walked thither, carrying our blankets with us, and ſlept near three hours. Here we regulated our journey, and having taken a pleaſant view of the range of mountains, and the charming plane of *Shamokin*, 2 miles long and above one broad, skirted on the Weſt and North by the river, and encompaſſed Eaſt, and partly South, with lofty hills, beſides a fine vale bordering the North Weſt branch, we returned to the town and dined. In the

afternoon

afternoon. In the afternoon we borrowed a canoe, and paddled up the Weſt branch. It is near two-thirds as broad as the North Eaſt or main river : I went aſhore on the ſouth ſide to the point of a hill to look for curioſities, but found none; the rock conſiſted of a dark coloured ſhelly ſtone. Then we diverted our ſelves with ſwimming, the water was chin deep moſt of the breadth, and ſo clear one might have ſeen a pin at the bottom. At night I hung up my blanket like a hammock, that I might lie out of the reach of the fleas, troubleſome and conſtant gueſts in an *Indian* hut; but I found my contrivance too cool for a place open on all ſides, tho covered with a kind of granary, eſpecially the wind blowing cold from the N. W.

10. We departed in the morning with *Shickcalamy* and his ſon, he being the chief man in the town, which conſiſted of *Delaware Indians*; he was of the ſix nations, or rather a *Frenchman*, born at *Mont-real*, and adopted by the *Oneidoes*, after being taken priſoner; but his ſon told me he was of the *Cayuga* nation, that of his mother, agreeable to the *Indian* rule *Partus ſequitur ventrem*, which is as reaſonable among them as among cattle, ſince the whole burthen of bringing up falls on her; therefore in caſe of ſeparation the children fall to her ſhare.

We had many advantages from the company of theſe guides, were perfectly acquainted with that part of the country, and being of the ſix Nations they were both a credit and protection; and, alſo as we went to accommodate the differences, and allay the Heart-burnings that had been raiſed by a late skirmiſh on the back of *Virginia*, between ſome of theſe nations and the *Engliſh*, we could not but derive a confidence from the company of a chief.

We coaſted the river near a mile to the ford, where we had a good bottom not above 3 feet deep; this brought us to an Iſland near 2 miles long and a quarter broad, pretty rich at the lower end, and near the river, but the higher end ſandy, from the drift left there by the floods, it therefore produces little but *pitch pine*. After leaving the lower end where we ſaw ſeveral cabbins, we once more took water for the oppoſite ſhore, but the bottom is leſs even, though not above half as wide as the laſt, which is about 400 yards.

Hence leaving the weſt branch about half a mile on our left, and rich low ground between with gravel, oak and pitch-pine land on our right, we reached a pretty ſpring of good water, ſituated between the ſwamp and dry ground. This, ſince our paſſage over the *Blue Mountains*, was the only one we met with till we came near *Onondago*, for on that

ſide

ſide the currents and creeks are chiefly formed by the water ouſing and draining from the bottoms of the mountains and hills, and are gradually collected in this manner into rivulets But on the ſouth of this great ridge, it guſhes out between the rocks in ſtreams big enough to turn a mill, in other places riſing and bubbling out of the earth in quantity ſufficient to fill a pipe an inch ſquare, or thereabouts.

Our journey now lay through very rich bottoms to a creek 6 miles from *Shamokin*, a great extent of fruitful low ground ſtill continuing. Here we found a fine meadow of graſs on our right, and rich dry ground on the left. In our path lay a large Rattleſnake, but he civilly crept into the graſs, and let us paſs by without danger. Our way from hence lay through an old *Indian* field of excellent ſoil, where there had been a town, the principal footſteps of which are peach-trees, plumbs and excellent grapes. A great flood came down this branch a few years paſt, and drove abundance of ſand over this ground a great depth among the trees. It roſe 20 feet perpendicular, waſhing away many yards of the bank, which was compoſed of gravel and ſand, and doubtleſs had been raiſed to that heighth by former inundations, for the wood ground 30 rod from the river is ſeveral feet

lower than the bank; a little above this devaſtation we dined.

And now leaving the river we held a new courſe over a fine level, then down a rich hollow to a *run*, where we ſaw a ſummer duck; and ſo down the *run*, a little beyond this turns a path to *Wiomick*, a town on the eaſt branch, hence N. N. E. then N. after W. to a rich bottom near the river, where *Shickcalamy* formerly dwelt, at the upper end of which reſiſtleſs torrents had carried abundance of ſand into the woods. With this bottom we left the river for the preſent, and kept a variable courſe through the gap of the mountain N. and N. W. over middling champion land, producing ſome pitch pine, and large white and black oak, ſome ſwamps and brooks, by one of which we lodged in a fertile valley, that we reached before night.

11. About break of day it began to rain, and the *Indians* made us a covering of bark got after this manner: They cut the tree round through the bark near the root, and make the like inciſion above 7 feet above it; theſe horizontal ones are joined by a perpendicular cut, on each ſide of which they after looſen the bark from the wood, and hewing a pole at the ſmall end, gradually tapering like a wedge about 2 feet, they force it in till they have compleated the ſeparation all round, and the bark parts whole from

from the tree, one of which, a foot diameter, yields a piece 7 feet long and above 3 wide: And having now prepared four forked ſticks, they are ſet into the ground the longer in front; on theſe they lay the croſs-poles, and on them the bark. This makes a good tight ſhelter in warm weather. The rain was quickly over, but as it continued cloudy, we did not care to leave our ſhed. Here our *Indians* ſhot a young deer, that afforded us a good feaſt.

12. We ſet forward and travelled up the *Run*, bearing N. W. along a narrow valley, moderately rich, the hills hung with lofty timber, the ſtones generally flat, then up a ſteep hill, where I found foſſil ſteel in many ſtones, the ſoil middling oak land; and here had a view of a Bluf point N. by the river ſide; then deſcending down a ſteep hill N. E. we came to a rich bottom by the river; hence N. after N. W. to a creek, and ſo through a grove of white walnut and locuſt, and exceeding rich land, half a mile broad, and now ſome higher level land, affording oak, hickery, walnut, locuſt, and pitch pine, our courſe generally N. N. W. till riding over a hazel plane we met eight *Shawaneſe Indians* on horſeback coming from *Allegheny*, and going to *Wiomick* upon an important account, as they ſaid. We turned back with them to the adjacent wood, and ſate down together under a ſhady oak; the

ſquaw

ſquaw which they brought to wait upon them kindled a fire to light their pipes; our Interpreter and *Shickcalamy* ſet down with them to ſmoke, the cuſtomary civility when two parties meet; *Conrad Weiſar* underſtanding they were ſome of the chiefs of the *Shawaneſe*, acquainted them with our buſineſs at *Onondago*, a compliment they were ſo well pleaſed with, that they gave us the *Yohay*, a particular *Indian* expreſſion of approbation, and which is very difficult for a white man to imitate well; after half an hour's grave diſcourſe ſeveral of them went to catch the horſes, and one of the principal men made a handſome ſpeech, with a pleaſant well compoſed countenance, to our interpreter, to the following effect: 'That they were ſenſible with what 'an unwearied diligence he had hitherto been 'inſtrumental in preſerving peace and good 'harmony between the *Indians* and *White* 'People, and that as they could not but now 'commend the prudence and zeal with which 'he had effected this laudable purpoſe, ſo 'they earneſtly entreated and ſincerely hoped 'he would ſtill perſevere in the ſame endea-'vours and with the ſame ſucceſs, and that his 'good offices may never be wanting on any 'future occaſion.

The *Shawaneſe*, or *Shaounons*, as they are called by the *French*, are the ſame people, the *Six* nations: and at *New York* are called *Satanas*; they

they dwell upon the *Hokio* and to the ſouthward of it, between whom and that of the *Cherokees* is a river ſometimes called by that name. It was againſt this people the ſix nations firſt turned their Arms with ſucceſs, after they had fled before warlike *Adarondacks*, and having thus learn'd to conquer, ventured to attack their hitherto victorious enemies, who could not have ſupported this war without the unexpected aſſiſtance they received from the *French*.

After taking our leaves, we continued our journey to a large creek 4 or 5 rod wide which waſhes on each ſhore a charming country of rare ſoil as far as the river. On the other ſide of this creek we rode through a deſerted Town in the neck between them; a few miles more brought us to our dining place, and in the afternoon we turned our backs on this branch, and rode N. W. down a valley 20 rods wide, wooded with pitch pine on the right hand and white on the left, the *Run* between; then N. W. by W. by the ſide of a hill and bottom of white pine, down which we rode 2 hours, upon better land, the N. W. middling land, now up a hill N.W. to a point, a proſpect of an opening bearing N. then down the hill to run, and over a rich neck lying between it and *Tiadaughton* bearing N. W. where we lodged within about 50 yards of a hunting cabin, where there were 2 Men, a Squaw and a child,

child, the men came to our fire and made us a preſent of ſome veniſon, and invited Mr *Weiſar*, *Shickalamy* and his ſon, to a feaſt at their cabin. It is incumbent on thoſe who partake of a feaſt of this ſort, to eat all that comes to their ſhare or burn it: now *Weiſar* being a traveller was intitled to a double ſhare, but he being not very well, was forced to take the benefit of a liberty indulged him, of eating by proxy, and called me, but both being unable to cope with it, *Lewis* came in to our aſſiſtance, notwithſtanding which we were hard ſet to get down the neck and throat, for theſe were allotted us; and now we had experienced the utmoſt bounds of their indulgence, for *Lewis* ignorant of the ceremony of throwing the bone to the dog, tho' hungry Dogs are generally nimble, the *Indian* more nimble, laid hold of it firſt, and committed it to the fire, religiouſly covering it over with hot aſhes. This ſeems to be a kind of offering, perhaps firſt fruits to the Almighty power to crave future ſucceſs in the approaching hunting ſeaſon, and was celebrated with as much decency and more ſilence, than many ſuperſtitious ceremonies: the bigotry of the popiſh miſſionaries tempt them to compaſs ſea and land to teach their weak Proſelites what they call the chriſtian religion. To this I may add another ceremony at bear hunting, as related by a celebrated author, this diverſion being in the winter,

winter, when this animal is very fat, the greaſe that ſwims on the broth becomes a perfect oil, which the *Indians* frequently drink untill they burſt —— As ſoon as the bear is killed, the hunter places the ſmall end of his pipe in its mouth, and by blowing in the bowls, fills the mouth and throat full of ſmoak, then he conjures the departed Spirit not to reſent the injury done his body, nor to thwart his future ſport in hunting, but as he receives no anſwer to this, in order to know if his prayers have prevailed, he cuts the ligament under the bear's tongue, if theſe ligaments contract and ſhrivel up, being caſt into the fire, which is done with great ſolemnity and abundance of invocations: then it is eſteemed a certain mark (as it rarely fails) that the *manes* are appeaſed. It was now time to return to our fire where we laid us down to reſt.

The 13*th*, in the morning, the *Indians* repaid our viſit, and entertained us with a familiar converſation for half an hour at the fire. We then ſet out up the creek, where I obſerved three noble white pine trees, with many large green cones hanging on the top and ſide branches over the creek, which was three rods broad and pretty deep, had theſe been ripe I know not how we ſhould have got at them, as they were at the extremity of large branches, that hung over the Water, on which part of the branch they generally grow. Soon after we

came to a ſpacious level of midling land, oak, and pine, next to a large rich bottom, and at the upper end to an extenſive grove of white pine, after this a graſſy plain of 20 acres, then round the end of a hill, and along a valley, and run N. by W. high timber and good land on the hill ſide N. then W. and laſtly, at half an hour after 8 N. here our *Indians* ſhot 2 young deer. The land and timber good, brown ſoil, and the ſtones flat and gritty. From hence going over a hill we ſaw a gap N. N.W. and deſcending down a ſteep part of the hill to the head of a ſtoney brook and hollow, we made our way through it, it was full of ſpruce and white pine; at the bottom we killed a rattle ſnake, then croſſed the brook and traverſed a rich bottom N. N. E. the upper end pine, ſpruce, oak, laurel, poplar and cheſnut, ſome limes, ſtoney and brown ſoil, ſeveral times croſſed the creek and over rich bottoms and ſtoney hill ſides with laurel, pine, ſpruce and ſwamps, till towards night. On the north ſide of a deep ſtoney yet rich ſoil, I found roots of *Ginſeng*; at night we lodged by a creek, and the two *Indians* that feaſted with us, who accompanied us to the *Cayuga* branch.

The 14*th*, Having forded the creek we kept generally a N. N. E. courſe, moſtly along rich bottoms interſperſed with large ſpruce and white pine, oak, beach and plane tree,

ginſeng,

ginſeng, and many more. We frequently paſſed the creek (which was very ſtrong) for the mountains often clos'd on one ſide; it was big enough to turn two mills. At 9 o'clock the *Indians* fiſhed for trout, but caught none, being provided with no other means of taking them but by poles ſharpened at the end to ſtrike them, and the water deep: at the foot of a hill we croſſed the creek once more, and rode along a fine bottom, full of great wild nettles. The timber was ſugar birch, ſugar maples, oak and poplar, our courſe N. W. continued till after 12 'clock, then followed the eaſt branch N. N. E. about a mile, all a rich bottom where we found a *Liching Pond*, where we dined, the backs parts of our country are full of theſe liching ponds, ſome are of black ſulphureous mud, ſome of pale clay, the deer and elks are fond of licking this clay, ſo that the pond becomes enlarged to a rood or half an acre, the ſoil, I ſuppoſe contains ſome ſaline particles agreeable to the deer, who come many miles to one of theſe places, there had been a great elk there that morning, but the *Indians* told us that many years ago ſome *Indians* quarrelled there, in the ſquable one loſt his life, and that this made the deer keep from thence for many years.

Now traveling up the run eaſt, we left it on the right hand, to go up a hill covered with ſpruce, oak ſpruce, lawrel, opulus, yew, with

ginſeng and ataliaſhum in abundance, then kept generally an eaſt courſe, having ſeveral hollows and ſteep aſcents and over many boggy rotten places, ſome laurel and very high timber, then down the ſide of a hill to an old beaver dam, over which we paſſed, and then over a large level of very good ground, tall timber and abundance of leather-bark or *thymelea*, which is plentiful in all this part of the country. Our lodging was in this ſpacious flat.

The 15*th*, We ſet out a N. E. courſe, and paſſed by very thick and tall timber of beach, cheſnut, linden aſh, great magnolia, ſugar-birch, ſugar-maple, poplar, ſpruce and ſome white pine, with ginſeng and maidenhair; the ſoil black on the ſurface, and brown underneath, the ſtones a brown grit, the way very uneven over fallen trees, abundance of hollows, and heaps of earth, turned up by the roots of proſtrate timber: hence it is that the ſurface is principally compoſed of rotten trees, roots, and moſs, perpetually ſhaded, and for the moſt part wet, what falls is conſtantly rotting and rendring the earth looſe and ſpungy; this tempts abundance of yellow waſps to breed in it, which were very troubleſome to us throughout our journey, on the branches of *Suſquehanah* our courſe this day was generally eaſt, and we got through this diſmal wilderneſs about two hours before ſunſet, and came

came to oak and hickery land, then down a ſteep hill producing white pine to a creek called *Conuria* a branch of *Towintohow*, where we lodged in a bottom producing ginſeng, ſarea-parilla mediola, maidenhair, darallia, panax, mitela, chriſtophoriana, with white, red and blue berries, we had a fine warm night, and one of the *Indians* that had ſo generouſly feaſted us, ſung in a ſolemn harmonious manner, for ſeven or eight minutes, very different from the common *Indian* tune, from whence I conjectured it to be a hymn to the great ſpirit as they expreſs it. In the morning I asked the Interpreter what the *Indian* meant by it, but he did not hear him, and indeed I believe none of the company heard him but myſelf, who wake with a little noiſe, rarely ſleeping ſound abroad.

The 16*th*, We began our journey up a little hill, ſteep and ſomewhat ſtoney, and then through oak, cheſnut, huckleberries, and honeyſuckles, the land poor, ſometimes white pine, ſpruce and lawrel; thus far N. but at half an our after ſeven N. E. through a great white pine, ſpruce ſwamp full of roots, and abundance of old trees lying on the ground, or leaning againſt live ones, they ſtood ſo thick that we concluded it almoſt impoſſible to ſhoot a man at 100 yards diſtant, let him ſtand never ſo fair. The ſtraight bodies of theſe trees ſtood ſo thick, a bullet muſt hit one before it could fly 100 yards, in the moſt

open

open part. At half an hour after nine, we rode down a ſmall hill, and croſſed a ſmall run, then climb'd a ſteep hill of oak land, and by ten to a large creek called *Uskoho*, then round the point of a hill, midling land, and up the ſide thereof which was good, and down the other ſide very ſteep to a *Run*, with good corn land to the top of a hill in ſight of the eaſt branch of *Suſquehanah*, ſo far we had pale clay land from the wilderneſs, though blackiſh on the ſurface, for 2, 3 or 4 inches, then down half a mile on a moderate deſcent, good oak and hickery land to a large rich graſſy and weedy bottom, 40 rood wide, producing elm; birch, linden, lotus, white-walnut, and very large white pine, where the land is a little higher than common; at the upper end of this bottom we dined at half an hour after 12, we ſet out again at 3, courſe N. along a ſteep hill ſide, full of excellent flat whet-ſtones of all ſizes, from half a foot, to 4 feet long, and from 2 inches to a foot wide, and from half an inch to a foot thick; I brought one home which I have uſed to whet my ax, ſcythe, chizzels and knife, and is yet very little the worſe for wear, it is as fine as the *Engliſh* rag, but of a blackiſh colour: this laſted two miles cloſe to the river which is here 100 yards wide, and deep enough for flat-bottomed boats, then we came to a very rich low land, moſt of the way N. N. E. to the *Cayaga* branch, near 100 yards wide which we croſſed, then rode

near

near a mile to the town-houſe, bearing N. this town is called *Tohicon*, and lies in a rich neck between the branch and main river: the *Indians* welcomed us by beating their drum, as ſoon as they ſaw us over the branch, and continued beating after the *Engliſh* manner as we rode to the houſe, and while we unſaddled our Horſes, laid in our luggage and entered our ſelves: the Houſe is about 30 foot long, and the fineſt of any I ſaw among them. The *Indians* cut long graſs and laid it on the floor for us to ſit or lie on; ſeveral of them came and ſat down and ſmoaked their pipes, one of which was ſix foot long, the head of ſtone, the ſtem a reed, after this they brought victuals in the uſual manner: here I obſerved for the firſt time in this journey, that the worms which had done much miſchief in ſeveral parts of our Province, by deſtroying the graſs and even corn for two ſummers, had done the ſame thing here, and had eat off the blade of their maize and long white graſs, ſo that the ſtems of both ſtood naked 4 foot high; I ſaw ſome of the naked dark coloured grubs half an inch long, tho' moſt of them were gone, yet I could perceive they were the ſame that had viſited us two months before; they clear all the graſs in their way, in any meadow they get into, and ſeem to be periodical as the locuſts and caterpillar, the latter of which I am afraid will do us a great deal of miſchief next ſummer. Here one of our hoſts at the hunting

cabin

cabin left us to go up this branch to his own country, that of the *Cayagas*, this night it rained a little, and the morning was very foggy.

17*th*. Day, we croſſed the neck to the eaſt branch of *Suſquehanah*, up which we travelled along a rich bottom of high graſs and woods of a fine creek, then over oak and pitch pine land to a ſwampy run and fine meadow ground, then eaſt through white and pitch pine, oak, hickery and hazel bottom, and ſo N. E. to the river, where grew a white pine cloſe to the water, with four green cones on, ſtill we kept N, E. at 10 bore S. Here the river turned thus, occaſioned by ſome high barren mountains on the other ſide, whoſe ſides came cloſe to it, and turned the ſtream in this crooked manner. We travelled through a fine vale of pine land. Here was a place where the *Indians* had been a *pawawing*. They cut a parcel of poles, which they ſtick in the ground in a circle, about the bigneſs of hop poles, the cicrle about five foot diameter, and then bring them together at the top, and tie them in form of an * oven, where the conjurer placeth himſelf; then his aſſiſtants cover the cage over cloſe with blankets and to make it ſtill more ſuffocating, hot ſtones are rolled in; after all this the prieſt muſt cry aloud, and agitate his

* Vide Capt. *Beverley's* hiſt. of *Virginia*, 8*vo*. a curious and uſeful work, and the Baron *Labontan's* entertaining voyages in theſe parts.

his body after the moſt violent manner, till nature has almoſt loſt all her faculties before the ſtubborn ſpirit will become viſible to him, which they ſay is generally in the ſhape of ſome bird. There is uſually a ſtake drove into the ground about four foot high and painted. I ſuppoſe this they deſign for the *winged airy Being* to perch upon, while he reveals to the invocant what he has taken ſo much pains to know. However, I find different nations have different ways of obtaining the pretended information. Some have a bowl of water, into which they often look, when their ſtrength is almoſt exhauſted, and their ſenſes failing, to ſee whether the ſpirit is ready to anſwer their demands. I have ſeen many of theſe places in my travels. They differ from their ſweating coops, in that they are often far from water, and have a ſtake by the cage, yet both have a heap of red hot ſtones put in. at 11 we dreſſed our dinner, and found an *Indian* by the river ſide, reſting himſelf; all his proviſion was a dried eel; this he made us a preſent of, and we gave him a ſhare of our dinner. Their way of roaſting eels is thus; they cut a ſtick about three foot long, and as thick as one's thumb, they ſplit it about a foot down, and when the eel is gutted, they coil it between the two ſides of the ſtick, and bind the top cloſe, which keeps the eel flat, and then ſtick one end in the ground before a good fire.

At half an hour after one we ſet out, middling oak land but ſtony, yet no great rocks; at 2 N. E. then N. good land, a rich bottom and flat ſtones on riſing ground; we croſſed the *Owagan* branch about thirty yards wide. Then half a mile to the town ſo called, where we lodged, there is very good land in this neck between the branch and main river. A little before ſun-ſet I walked out of town to regulate my journal; but the gnats were ſo troubleſome I could not reſt a minute. They bit my hands ſo cruelly I was forced to give over my purpoſe. Theſe are ſo troubleſome from ſun-riſing to ſun-ſetting that we could not reſt while we were eating our victuals without making ſeveral fires of wet leaves round us to keep them off.

18. This morning we ſent an *Indian* with a ſtring of Wampum to *Onondago*, to acquaint them with our coming, and the buſineſs we came about, that they might ſend meſſengers to the ſeveral nations to haſten their deputies to meet them as ſoon as poſſible, for this town ſerves the five nations as *Baden* does the thirteen cantons of *Switzerland*, with this difference, that *Onondago* is at the ſame time the capital of a canton.

We ſet out at half an hour after 9, and travelled till 6; this day our general courſe was N. and N. W. having fine level rich land moſt of the way, and tall timber oak, birch, beech

beech, aſh, ſpruce, linden, elm and herb hierophilon, hepatica and maidenhair in abundance. We lodged by *Front Creek* in a ſpatious vale, and it looking like rain, we made us a cabbin of ſpruce bark, but no rain came.

19. We rode over good level land: after we came to very ſwampy bottoms, thickets and hills of ſpruce, and white pine; here were three ridges of ſteep hills that run nearly E. and W. and with difficulty we rode over their ſteep cliffs, which projected cloſe to the creek. We were ſeveral times obliged to ford it backwards and forwards. Several runs come into the creek on both ſides from between the mountains. Now we came to moſt excellent level ground, than which nothing can be more fruitful, full of tall timber, ſugar, maple, birch, linden, aſh, and beech, and ſhrubs, as opulus, green maple, hornbeam, hamamelis, ſolanum, gooſeberries and red currans triphilum in abundance. Here we dined by a pleaſant creek and choice land. After dinner we ſoon began to mount up a pretty ſteep hill, covered with oak, birch, aſh, and higher up abundance of cheſnut and ſome hickery. This is middling land, the produce the ſame for three miles as our land bears with us. It lies very high, and when cleared will have an extenſive proſpect of fertile vales on all ſides. We then rode down a long

rich hill of moderate deſcent, where grew abundance of gooſeberries; all the trees were crouded with wild pigeons, which, I ſuppoſe, breed in theſe lofty ſhady trees. I found many foſſils on this hill.

Another fertile valley welcomed us at the bottom, over which travelling a mile we lodged at a *Run*, which our *Indians* told us emptied into the lake *Ontario*; if ſo, it muſt run into the *Cayuga* river, and ſo to *Oſwego*.

20. We continued our journey in this pleaſant vale until we aſcended a hill, beyond which a ſlant brought us to two ponds that run into a branch of *Suſquehanah*; croſſing this we joined a part from the *Carugas* country; then over a rich level to another branch big enough to turn a mill where we croſſed it. It was now three-quarters after 10, then good land to half an hour after 12 yet no hickery nor oak, but elm, ſugar, maple, beech, birch, white walnuts, hop, hornbeam, and abundance of ginſeng. After dinner we paſſed a branch of the great *Suſquehanah*, down which lake canoes may go quite to where the river is navigable for boats. On the banks I found the *gale* like the *European*. This is the neareſt branch of *Suſquehanah* river to that of *Onondago*. Leaving this on our right, on our left we perceived a hill, where the *Indians* ſay *Indian* corn, tobacco and ſquaſhes were found on the following occaſion:

caſion: An *Indian (whoſe wife had eloped)* came hither to hunt, and with his skins to purchaſe another here, he eſpied a young ſquaw alone at the hill; going to her, and enquiring where ſhe came from, he received for anſwer, that ſhe came from heaven to provide ſuſtenance for the poor *Indians*, and if he came to that place twelve months after he ſhould find food there. He came accordingly and found corn, ſquaſhes and tobacco, which were propagated from thence and ſpread through the country, and this filly ſtory is religiouſly held for truth among them. Our way hence, lay over fine rich level land as before, but when we left it, we enter'd a miſerable thicket of ſpruce, opulus, and dwarf yew, then over a branch of *Suſquehanah*, big enough to turn a mill, came to ground as good as that on the other ſide the thicket; well cloathed with tall timber of ſugar birch, ſugar maple, and elm. In the afternoon it thunder'd hard pretty near us, but rained little: We obſerved the tops of the trees to be ſo cloſe to one another for many miles together, that there is no ſeeing which way the clouds drive, nor which way the wind ſets: and it ſeems almoſt as if the ſun had never ſhone on the ground, ſince the creation. About ſun ſet it cleared up, and we encamped on the laſt branch of *Suſquehanah*, the night following it thundred and rained very faſt, and took us

at

at a diſadvantage, for we had made no ſhelter to keep off the rain, neither could we ſee it till juſt over our heads, and it began to fall.

One of our *Indians* cut 4 ſticks 5 feet long, and ſtuck both ends into the ground, at 2 foot diſtance, one from another; over theſe he ſpread his match coat and crept through them, and then fell to ſinging: in the mean time we were ſetting poles ſlantwiſe in the ground, tying others croſs them, over which we ſpread our blanket and crept cloſe under it with a fire before us and fell faſt aſleep.

I waked a little after midnight, and found our fire almoſt out, ſo I got the hatchet and felled a few ſaplings which I laid on, and made a rouſing fire, tho' it rained ſtoutly, and laying down once more, I ſlept ſound all night.

21*ſt*, In the morning when we had dry'd our blankets, we kept along the ſide of a hill, gradually aſcending, the ſoil good, timber tall, and abundance of ginſeng; here the muſquetoes were very troubleſome, it being foggy, thence proceeding down a long gradual deſcent on good rich ſoil with tall timber, ſugar, maple, cheſnut, cherry, linden and elm, we traverſed a large valley and rivulet, then rode up a little ſteep hill where we ſtopped at half an hour after eleven, this hill was a little ſandy, with ſome large pines growing upon it; here we walked and looked about us, having not had ſuch an opportunity for two days, during

which

which time we had a fine proſpect over the vale of the great mountain we had juſt croſſed, and which differed ſo remarkably from all I had ever been upon before, in its eaſy and fruitful aſcent and deſcent, in its great width, every where crowned with noble and lofty woods, but above all, in its being intirely free from naked rocks and ſteep precipices.

From theſe remarks, one might be naturally led to imagine, that the Waters at the flood gradually ebbed and retired on each ſide, towards the river *St. Lawrence* and *Suſquehanah*, the very next ridges on either ſide being narrower, ſteeper, and ſome rocks waſhed bare, and ſo all the adjacent ridges the farther they are from this, appear to be more waſhed, more compoſed of great banks of craggy rocks and tremendous precipices, the ſoil more carried off, mighty rocks tumbled down, and thoſe left appearing as if piled up in a pyramid and hereby preſerved from a ſhare in the awful ruin below among their fellows; the ſoil being ſo perfectly waſhed from their root, as evidently no longer to ſupport them. After having enjoyed this enchanting proſpect and entertaining hypotheſis, we deſcended eaſily for ſeveral miles, over good land producing ſugar-maples, many of which the *Indians* had tapped to make ſugar of the ſap, alſo oaks, hickery, white walnuts, plums and ſome apple trees, full of fruit; the *Indians* had ſet long buſhes all round

the

the trees at a little diſtance, I ſuppoſe to keep the ſmall children from ſtealing the fruit before they were ripe: here we halted and turned our horſes to graſs, while the inhabitants cleared a cabin for our reception; they brought us victuals, and we diſpatched a meſſenger immediately to *Onondago* to let them know how near we were, it being within 4 miles. All the *Indians*, men, women and children came to gaze at us and our horſes, the little boys and girls climbed on the roofs of their cabins, about ten in number to enjoy a fuller view, we ſet out about ten, and travelled over good land all the way, moſtly an eaſy deſcent, ſome lime-ſtone, then down the eaſt hill, over ridges of lime-ſtone rock, but generally a moderate deſcent into the fine vale where this capital (if I may ſo call it) is ſituated.

We alighted at the council houſe, where the chiefs were already aſſembled to receive us, which they did with a grave chearful complaiſance, according to their cuſtom; they ſhew'd us where to lay our baggage, and repoſe ourſelves during our ſtay with them; which was in the two end apartments of this large houſe. The *Indians* that came with us, were placed over againſt us: this cabin is about 80 feet long, and 17 broad, the common paſſage 6 feet wide; and the apartments on each ſide 5 feet, raiſed a foot above the paſſage by a long ſapling hewed ſquare, and fitted with

with joiſts that go from it to the back of the houſe; on theſe joiſts they lay large pieces of bark, and on extraordinary occaſions ſpread matts made of ruſhes, this favour we had; on theſe floors they ſet or lye down every one as he will, the apartments are divided from each other by boards or bark, 6 or 7 foot long, from the lower floor to the upper, on which they put their lumber, when they have eaten their homony, as they ſet in each apartment before the fire, they can put the bowel over head, having not above 5 foot to reach; they ſet on the floor ſometimes at each end, but moſtly at one: they have a ſhed to put their wood into in the winter, or in the ſummer, to ſet to converſe or play, that has a door to the ſouth; all the ſides and roof of the cabin is made of bark, bound faſt to poles ſet in the ground, and bent round on the top, or ſet aflatt, for the roof as we ſet our rafters; over each fire place they leave a hole to let out the ſmoak, which in rainy weather, they cover with a piece of bark, and this they can eaſily reach with a pole to puſh it on one ſide or quite over the hole, after this model are moſt of their cabins built, figure annexed.

The fine vale of *Onondago* runs north and ſouth, a little inclining to the weſt, and is near a mile wide, where the town is ſituated and excellent ſoil, the river that divides this charming vale, is 2, 3 or 4 foot deep, very

full of trees fallen acroſs, or drove on heaps by the torrents. The town in its preſent ſtate is about 2 or 3 miles long, yet the ſcattered cabins on both ſides the water, are not above 40 in number, many of them hold 2 families, but all ſtand ſingle, and rarely above 4 or 5 near one another; ſo that the whole town is a ſtrange mixture of cabins, interſperſed with great patches of high graſs, buſhes and ſhrubs, ſome of peaſe, corn and ſquaſhes, lime-ſtone bottom compoſed of foſſils and ſea ſhells.

It ſeems however, to have been more conſiderable when it became a conqueſt to the arms of *Lewis* 14th, at which time it muſt have been more compact, for hiſtory relates it to have been ſtockadoed. The *Count de Frontenac* governor of *Canada*, at the head of the moſt numerous army the *French* ever drew together in *N. America*, had the ſatisfaction in 1696 of triumphing over the aſhes of *Onondago*, whoſe inhabitants terrified with what they had heard of bombs, and generally unwilling to hazard a ſet battle, had already abandoned their houſes after ſetting them afire. whatever glory the grand monarque might reap from this exploit, it is certain he gained no other advantage, as a longer ſtay muſt have inevitably ſtarved the army, ſo its precipitate retreat helped our *Indians* to an opportunity of taking their revenge by cutting

of

of every ſtragling canoe, in their return by water to *Monreal.*

At night, ſoon after we were laid down to ſleep, and our fire almoſt burnt out, we were entertained by a comical fellow, diſguiſed in as odd a dreſs as *Indian* folly could invent; he had on a clumſy vizard of wood colour'd black, with a noſe 4 or 5 inches long, a grining mouth ſet awry, furniſhed with long teeth, round the eyes circles of bright braſs, ſurrounded by a larger circle of white paint, from his forehead hung long treſſes of buffaloes hair, and from the catch part of his head ropes made of the plated husks of *Indian* corn; I cannot recollect the whole of his dreſs, but that it was equally uncouth: he carried in one hand a large ſtaff, in the other a calabaſh with ſmall ſtones in it, for a rattle, and this he rubbed up and down his ſtaff; he would ſometimes hold up his head and make a hideous noiſe like the braying of an aſs; he came in at the further end, and made this noiſe at firſt, whether it was becauſe he would not ſurpriſe us too ſuddenly I can't ſay: I ask'd *Conrad Weiſer*, who as well as myſelf lay next the alley, what noiſe that was? and *Shickalamy* the *Indian* chief, our companion, who I ſuppoſed, thought me ſomewhat ſcared, called out, lye ſtill *John*, I never heard him ſpeak ſo much plain *Engliſh* before. The jack-pudding preſently came up to us, and an *Indian*

boy came with him and kindled our fire, that we might ſee his glittering eyes and antick poſtures as he hobbled round the fire, ſometimes he would turn the Buffaloes hair on one ſide that we might take the better view of his ill-favoured phyz, when he had tired himſelf, which was ſometime after he had well tired us, the boy that attended him ſtruck 2 or 3 ſmart blows on the floor, at which the hobgoblin ſeemed ſurpriſed and on repeating them he jumped fairly out of doors and diſappeared. I ſuppoſe this was to divert us and get ſome tobacco for himſelf; for as he danced about he would hold out his hand to any he came by to receive this gratification which as often as any one gave him he would return an awkard compliment. By this I found it no new diverſion to any but my ſelf. In my whim I ſaw a vizard of this kind hang by the ſide of one of their cabins to another town. After this farce we endeavoured to compoſe ourſelves to ſleep but towards morning was again diſturbed by a drunken *Squaw* coming into the cabin frequently complimenting us and ſinging.

22*d*. was a ſhowery day, and we ſtirred little out.

23*d*. we hired a guide to go with us to the ſalt ſpring, 4 or 5 miles off, down the river, on the weſt ſide of it's mouth; being moſt of the way good land, and near the mouth very rich:

rich: from whence it runs weſtward near a quarter of a mile, a kind of a ſandy beach adjoining to the bank of the river, containing 3 or 4 acres. Here the *Indians* dig holes, about 2 foot deep, which ſoon filling with brine, they dip their kettles, and boil the contents, until the ſalt remains at bottom; there was a family reſiding at this time. The boys in the lake fiſhing, the *Squaw* fetching water, gathering wood, and making a fire under the kettle, while the husband was basking himſelf on the ſand, under the buſhes. We filled our gallon keg full of water and brought it to Town, where we boiled it to about a pound of ſalt. Our guides took their arrows, made of reed and down to ſhoot ſmall birds. About half way there is an excellent ſpring of water, and by it a grove of *Curboroitæ* joining to a green ſwamp, producing very high graſs. About a mile up the river from the lake, it runs by a ſteep bank at the end of a high hill. The bank was ſandy, and out of it run'd a brackiſh water, which inclines me to think that there is a body of foſſil ſalt here abouts, by which the plain is furniſhed with its intenſe ſalt brine, and that it is the vapour thereof that congeals to the traſh and buſhes that lye on the bank, and glitters like flakes of Ice, or Snow, in a Sunſhiny day. This day 2 deputies arrived from the *Cayugas* Country.

24*th*,

us to *Oſwego* for 16*s*. our intention was more to get proviſions for our journey home, than to gratify our curioſity. In the mean time, *Conrad* ſtayed at *Onondago*, to treat with the *Indian* chiefs about the skirmiſh in *Virginia*; with a view to incline them ſingly in favour of our application, before they aſſembled in council: and here I cannot help obſerving, it was ſcarcely ever known, that an *Indian Chief* or *Councellor*, once gained ſo far as to promiſe him intereſt, did break his promiſe, whatever preſents have been offered him from another quarter.

We travelled on foot to the *Onondago* lake, whence we had fetched the ſalt water the day before, there we procured a bark canoe at half an hour after eleven, then paddled down the lake, and reached the lower end in two hours courſe, N. W. This lake the *French* call *Ganentaha*; hence we went down the river a mile N. big enough to carry a large boat, if the trees fallen into it where but carried away, this brought us to the river from the *Cayuga* country, near 100 yards wide, very ſtill, and ſo deep we could ſee no bottom, the land on both ſides very rich and low to within a mile of the *Oneido* river, where the river began to run ſwift, and the bottom became viſible, tho' at a good depth. At three o'clock we came to the laſt mention'd river, down which the *Abbany* trader come to *Oſcuego*, half a mile

a mile farther we came to a rippling, which carried us with prodigious ſwiftneſs down the ſtream, ſoon after we encountered a ſecond, and a mile farther a third, very rough. In about an hour by the ſun, after many other ripplings, we found our ſelves at the great fall, the whole breadth of the river which is above 100 yards wide and is eight or ten feet perpendicular: here we hawled our canoe aſhore, took out all our baggage, and carried it on our back a mile to a little town, of about four or five cabins; they chiefly ſubſiſt by catching fiſh and aſſiſting the *Alcany* people to hawl their *Bateans*, and carry their goods round the falls; which may be about ten or twelve poles, then they launch again into the river, and down the foaming ſtream that furiouſly on all ſides daſhes one half againſt the rocks, near a mile before they come to ſtill water, and indeed, it runs pretty ſwift all the way to *Oſwego*. Theſe *Indians* were very kind to us, and gave us boiled corn and water melons, while they and our guide who was a relation ſat over againſt us in the ſame cabin, chewing raw *Indian* corn ſtalks, ſpitting out the ſubſtance after they ſucked out the juice. But we could not yet underſtand whether we were to go to the fort by land, or by water. In the morning they had catched ſome ſtout eels, and a great fiſh two feet long, it was round and thick, they ſtrike them with long ſlender

ſhafts

ſhafts 18 or 20 feet long, pointed at the end with iron ſee the ſhape. The 2 ſplints of wood ſpreading each ſide, directs the point into the fiſh, which at a great depth it would be otherwiſe difficult to hit. I ſaw upon one of their canoes in the morning a large piece of bark ſpread a-croſs. On this lay gravel and ſand, and on theſe coals and aſhes, which I ſuppoſed had been a fire, and the gravel placed there to ſave the bark. And I took it to be a deſign both to allure and ſee to ſtrike the fiſh.

25*th.* Our guide, and ſeveral other *Indians*, lead us to the canoes belonging to the town, into one of which we got full of hopes of going by water, but were much chagrin'd to find ourſelves only paddled croſs the water, where we unwillingly took out our cloaths, victuals and blankets, and carried them on our backs following our guides, who were now increaſed to three. We had 12 miles down the river by land, moſt of the way middling land, ſome white pine and ſpruce groves to paſs through, but moſt of the way in ſight of the river, which is very rapid moſt of the way to the lake. On the point formed by the entrance of the river, ſtands the fort or trading caſtle, it is a ſtrong ſtone houſe, incompaſſed with a ſtone wall near 20 feet high, and 120 paces round, built of large ſquared ſtones; very curious for their ſoftneſs, I cut my name in it with my knife. The town conſiſts of about

70 log-

70 loghouſes, of which one half are in a row near the river, the other half oppoſite to them, on the other ſide of a fair were two ſtreets divided by a row of poſts in the midſt. Where each *Indian* has his houſe to lay his goods, and where any of the traders may traffick with him. This is ſurely an excellent regulation for preventing the traders from impoſing on the *Indians*, a practiſe they have been formerly too much guilty of, and which has frequently involved the *Engliſh* colonies in difficulties, and conſtantly tended to depreciate us in the eſteem of the natives; Who can ſcarcely be blamed for judging of a nation, by the behaviour of thoſe with whom they have the moſt intercourſe. a judgment I am ſorry to confeſs that has (till lately) tended much to the making them in favour rather of the French, than Engliſh. I ſpeak of private perſons, not of the reſpective government. The chief officer in command at the caſtle, keeps a good look out to ſee when the *Indians* come down the lake with their poultry and furrs, and ſends a canoe to meet them, which conducts them to the caſtle, to prevent any perſon inticing them to put aſhore privately, treating them with ſpirituous liquors, and then taking that opportunity of cheating them. This officer ſeems very carefull, that all quarreling, and even the leaſt miſunderſtanding, when any happens, be quickly made up in an amicable manner, ſince a ſpeedy

accomodation can only prevent our country men from incuring the imputation of injuſtice, and the delay of it would produce the diſagreeable conſequences of an *Indians* endeavouring to right himſelf by force.

Oſwego, is an infant ſettlement made by the province of *New-York*, with the noble view of gaining to the crown of *Great Britain* the command of the 5 lakes, and the dependence of the *Indians* in their neighbourhood, and to its ſubjects the benefit of the trade upon them, and of the rivers that empty themſelves into them. At preſent the whole navigation is carried on by the *Indians* themſelves in bark canoes, and there are perhaps many reaſons for deſiring it ſhould continue ſo for ſome years at leaſt; but a good engliſhman cannot be without hopes of ſeeing theſe great lakes become one day accuſtomed to *Engliſh* navigation. It is true, the famous fall of *Niagara*, is an inſurmountable bar to all paſſage by water, from the lake *Ontario*, into the lake *Erie*, in ſuch veſſels as are proper for the ſecure navigation of either; but beſides, that bark canoes are carried on mens ſhoulders with eaſe, from one to the other, as far as the paſſage is impracticable: It will be much more eaſy to carry the goods in waggons, from the upper lake, into the *Huron* or *Quatoghie* lake, the ſtrait is rendered unnavigable by the *Saute St. Marie*, but a veſſel of conſiderable burthen may ſail

from

from the hither end of the *Erie* lake, to the bottom of the lake *Michigan*, and for ought we know, through all parts of the 3 middle lakes. Theſe lakes receive the waters of many rivers, that in ſome places approach ſo near the branches of the vaſt river *Miſſiſſippi*, that a ſhort land carriage ſupplies the communication. And here to uſe the words of a moſt judicious writer, " He that reflects on the natural ſtate " of that continent muſt open to himſelf a " a field for traffick in the ſouthern parts of *N.* " *America*, and by the means of this river " and the lakes, the imagination takes into " view ſuch a ſcene of inland navigation; as " cannot be paralleled in any other part of " the world. "

The honour of firſt diſcovering theſe extenſive freſh water ſeas, is certainly due to the *French*, who are at this time in poſſeſſion of ſettlements at *Fort Ponchartrian*, on the ſtrait between *Lake Erie* and the *Lake Huron* and at *Miſilimahinac* between the latter and the upper lake, but as theſe can give them no title againſt the original inhabitants or the *five nations*, Conquerors of all the adjacent nations, ſo it is difficult to conceive by what arguments theſe ſmall poſts, inhabited by no ſubjects of *France* but ſoldiers, can be extended to mark any poſſeſſion beyond the reach of their gun's, or land actually cultivated, except by ſuch as muſt intitle the crown of *Great*

Britain to all *North America*, both as *prior diſcoverers* and prior planters, without a ſubſequent deſertion.

The traders from *New York* come hither, up the *Mohawks* river, which diſcharges itſelf into *Hudſons* river; but generally go by land from *Albany*, to *Schenectady* about 20 miles from the *Mohawks* river, the carriage is but 3 miles into the river that falls into the *Oneido* lake, which diſcharges itſelf by the *Oneido* river, into the *Onondago* river, and brings their goods to *Oſwego* in the manner I have before related.

We came to the town about 12 o'clock, the commiſſary invited us to the caſtle where we dined, together with the Doctor and Clerk. After dinner we had the ſatisfaction of ſwimming in the lake *Ontario*, which is ſome times called by our *Indians Cadarakin*, this is alſo the name of a french fort upon it, almoſt oppoſite to *Oſwego*, N. it has 4 baſtions built of ſtone, and is near half a mile in circumference; it ſtands where the waters of this lake are already formed into the river St. Lawrence, which makes a good road for great barks under the point of *Cadarakin Bay*. The famous and unfortunate Mr. *De la Sale* had two barks which remains ſunk there to this day.

Theſe lakes are ſaid to have a kind of flux and reflux peculiar, ſince it is affirmed to be ſenſibly ebb and flood ſeveral times in a quarter of an hour, tho' it be perfectly ſmooth and

ſcarce

ſcarce any wind. But it is evident from the face of the earth, that the water of the lake *Ontario* is conſiderably diminiſhed and has loſt ground a great number of years, for the ſhores above a mile within land, are abundantly more low, as well as of a looſer texture then the ſoil beyond, whether this effect is in common to all the waters on the earth, according to a conjecture of the great Sir *Iſaac Newton*: Or whether it be not at (leaſt in part) owing to the removal of ſome great obſtruction, which by cauſing a fall in the river St. *Lawrence*, might formerly pen the waters up to a greater height than now; or only to the gradual wearing away by the perpetual paſſage of the water over thoſe falls that ſtill ſubſiſt: or to a caſual ruin of ſome part of one of them, I ſhall leave to the determination of a more able naturaliſt than myſelf.

The water was very clear and as cold as our river in May, it is well taſted and ſuppoſed to be 120 miles broad, and near 200 long, ſtreaching N. N. W. but this muſt be an error, the common maps giving it a bearing to the Northward of the lake, but Mr. *Bellin* ſhews us it lies E. and W. from the obſervations of *P. Charlevoix*, on the exactneſs of which he thinks he cannot too much relie, and *Bellin* in his map of theſe lakes has given it this bearing

bearing. We lodged in the caſtle in the captains chamber.

26*th*. Early in the morning I walked out looking for plants, as I had done the evening before. I obſerved a kitchen garden and a grave yard to the S. W. of the caſtle; which puts me in mind that the neighbourhood of this lake is eſteemed unhealthful, we were entertained by one of the traders, with whom we breakfaſted; and bought of him ſome dryed beef. And a gallon of Rum we got at the caſtle. The traders had diſpoſed of moſt of their biſcuit and had packed up their proviſion, in order to return directly to *Albany*: however, one of them went about to the reſt and collected us a good parcel of biſcuit, a kindneſs we were very ſenſible of. After breakfaſt I regulated my journal, having a convenient private room to do it in. We dined at the caſtle, and at 3 o'clock ſet out for *Onondago*. Two *Indians* helped to carry ſome of our baggage; the day was warm, the *Indians* walked faſt, our load was heavy and we were ſufficiently weary before we reached the town near the falls, which was about ſun ſet. Indeed we had the favour of ſhady woods all the way, we lodged where we did before. The *Indian Squaws* got very drunk and made a ſad noiſe till morning. My fear leaſt our guide was drunk alſo, added a good deal to an indiſpoſition I was ſeiz'd with in the evening, but

but in the morning I found him and his companion, to my great joy, faſt aſleep by the outſide of the cabin.

27*th*, We ſet out early and found our canoe ſafe where we left it, and it was with much ſatisfaction that I entered it. At half an hour after ten, we got to the firſt fall, above the great one, the *Indians* brought the canoe to ſhore and made ſign for us to diſembark and walk along aſhore, while they ſtept into the river, and hawled the canoe up the fall about a quarter of a mile, by good land. We reimbarked again, and at twelve came to the *Oneido* branch, up which the *Albany* traders return, after 2 or 3 months trade at *Oſwego-Caſtle*. At 3 o'clock we entered the *Onondago* lake, the upper end of which we gained by five, the land about the lake is pretty good and ſome large marſhes and rich low ground moſtly on each ſide, but here and there the hills come cloſe to the water: I think it muſt be eight miles long and above one broad, very brackiſh at the ſalt plain; very deep in ſome places near the middle, but ſhallow for 100 yards from the ſhore. The *Indians* paddled the canoe a little way higher up the ſtream and might have brought us to the town, if the fallen trees had been removed; but whatever nature has done for them (and ſhe is no where more bountiful) they are too lazy by any trouble of their own to improve; but when compelled by the moſt urgent neceſſity. We

We reached the town about ſun-ſet, equally pleaſed with our having improved the opportunity ſo well by ſeeing *Ontario* lake, and that we were returned ſafe to the interpreter and *Indian Chiefs*; thoſe two laſt days had been pretty warm: our *Indian* guide was a ſullen, illnatured, and I believe, a ſuperſtitious fellow. Every now and then as we paddled up the river, he would with a compoſed countenance utter ſomewhat pretty loud for about the ſpace of two minutes at a time; whether it was a magical incantation, or a prayer, I can't tell; I am ſatisfied it was no ſong, nor any ſpeech directed to us, or the *Indian* with him, for he ſeemed intirely unmoved all the time.

28*th*, This was a rainy thundering warm day, and two deputies arrived from the *Oneidoes*. News came that the worms had deſtroyed abundance of corn and graſs in *Canada*. This night we were troubled with fleas, and what was worſe, our men exceeding drunk and noiſy; our grievances in the day were more tolerable, being only women infeſting us with their company and bawling, in great good humour, indeed I perceived to no quarrel while among them.

29*th*, Several more deputies arrived from the *Tuſcaroroes*, we went to viſit a poor emaciated *Indian*, who they ſaid was bewitched, he lived about a mile from the *Council-Houſe*.

This

This day was warm, and ſeveral ſhowers paſſed by to the ſouthward.

30*th*, Three of the *Mohawks* arrived, this nation dwells fartheſt within the province of *New-York*, and to the ſouthward of the river known by their name; abundance of whites live among them, and as they are the beſt acquainted with the manners of the *Engliſh*, ſo they have at all times ſhewn the moſt ſteady affection to our people. I am ſorry to ſay, their morals are little if at all mended by their frequent intercourſe with us Chriſtians, tho' I am perſuaded it is not the fault of our religion but its profeſſors, perhaps this may be eſteemed a principal cauſe why they are become leſs numerous than any of their confederates.

This morning after breakfaſt, I went to the eaſt hill, and found a fine ſpring on the weſt ſide, ſurrounded with *Arbor Vitæ*, ſome a foot diameter, this water is of ſuch a petrifying nature, that as it runs among the fallen leaves it incruſts them and petrifies in great ſtones as big as one can well lift; there was a great piece of ground covered with them, which had turned the water-courſe ſeveral times, I have ſeen three of theſe ſprings in my travels; one on the other ſide of *Potomack* and one up *Delawars* at *Meneſinks*; this hill is good limeſtone land, producing ſugar maple, elms, beech, and ſome white pine, which

laſt had then 3 or 4 cones, on 2 or 3 trees, but they were quite green.

This afternoon the chiefs met in council, and three of them ſpoke for near a quarter of an hour each, two of theſe while ſpeaking, walked backward and forward in the common paſſage, near 2 thirds of its length, with a ſlow even pace, and much compoſure and gravity in their countenance; the other delivered what he had to ſay ſitting in the middle, in a graceful tone exhorting them to a cloſe indiſſoluble amity and unanimity, for it was by this perfect union their forefathers had conquered their enemies, were reſpected by their allies, and honoured by all the world; that they were now met according to their antient cuſtom, tho' ſeveral imminent dangers ſtood in their way, mountains, rivers, ſnakes and evil ſpirits, but that by the aſſiſtance of the *great Spirit* they now ſaw each others faces according to appointment.

This the interpreter told me was the opening of the diet, and was in the opinion of theſe people abundantly ſufficient for one day, ſince there is nothing they contemn ſo much as precipitation in publick councils; indeed they eſteem it at all times a mark of much levity in any one to return an immediate anſwer to a ſerious queſtion however obvious, and they conſequently ſpin out a Treaty, where many points are to be moved, to a great length of time,

time, as is evident from what our conference with them, produced afterward at *Lancaſter* begun the 22d of *June* 1744.

This council was followed by a feaſt, after 4 o'clock we all dined together upon 4 great kettles of *Indian* corn ſoop, which we ſoon emptied, and then every chief retired to his home.

31*ſt*, In the morning, as ſoon as light, I walked out to look at our horſes as uſual, and cloſe by a cabin ſpied a knife almoſt covered with graſs; I ſuppoſed it loſt, but the *Indians* being not yet ſtiring let it lie: a little after ſun-riſe I walked there again, and the *Squaw* being at the door, ſhewed her where it lay, at which ſhe ſeemed exceeding pleaſed, and picked it up immediately. As I came back to our cabin, I ſpy'd 2 *Indian* girls at play with beans, which they threw from one to the other on a match coat ſpread between them; as they were behind our cabin, I turned to ſee how they play'd, but they ſeemed much out of countenance, and run off in an inſtant: I obſerved that the *Indian* women are generally very modeſt.

About noon the council ſat a 2*d* time, and our interpreter had his audience, being charge by the governor with the conduct of the treaty. *Conrad Weiſer* had engaged the *Indian* ſpeaker to open the affair to the chiefs aſſembled in council; he made a ſpeech near half an hour,

and delived 3 broad belts and 5 ſtrings of *Wampum* to the council, on the proper occaſions. There was a pole laid a-croſs from one chamber to another over the paſſage, on this their belts and ſtrings were hung, that all the council might ſee them, and here have the matters in remembrance, in confirmation of which they were delivered: The conference held till 3, after which we dined, this repaſt conſiſted of 3 great kettles of *Indian* corn ſoop, or thin homony, with dry'd eels and other fiſh boiled in it, and one kettle full of young ſquaſhes and their flowers boiled in water, and a little meal mixed; this diſh was but weak food, laſt of all was ſerved a great bowl, full of *Indian* dumplings, made of new ſoft corn, cut or ſcraped off the ear, then with the addition of ſome boiled beans, lapped well up in *Indian* corn leaves, this is good hearty proviſion. After dinner, we had a favourable anſwer, coroborated by ſeveral belts of *Wampum*, with a ſhort ſpeech to each, theſe we carried away as our tokens of peace and friendſhip, the harangue concluded with a charge to ſit ſtill as yet, for tho' they had diſpatched our buſineſs firſt, it was not becauſe they were weary of us, but to make us eaſy. This complement preceded other buſineſs, which laſted till near ſun ſet, when we regaled on a great bowl of boiled cakes, 6 or 7 inches diameter, and about 2 thick,

thick, with another of boiled ſquaſh; ſoon after, the chiefs in a friendly manner took their leave of us, and departed every one to his lodging: this night we treated two of the chiefs that lived in the council hall, which as I mentioned, was our quarters; they drank chearfully, wiſhing a long continuance of uninterrupted amity between the *Indians* and *Engliſh*.

Auguſt 1. Six of the *Anticoque Indians* had an audience, but when they came to it, could not make themſelves underſtood, tho' provided with an interpreter brought near 700 miles, (they ſaid more) but he could not underſtand the *Mohawk* Language, but only the *Delawar* and middling *Engliſh*, * ſo they contrived he ſhould direct his ſpeech to *Conrad Weiſar* in *Engliſh*, and interpret this to the council. They gave broad belts of *Wampum*, 3 arm belts and 5 ſtrings; one was to wipe clean all the blood they had ſpilt of the *five nations*, another to raiſe a tumulus over their graves, and to pick

* *P. Charlevoix*, perhaps from his own knowledge and the information he has received from his brother miſſionaries, tells us, that the languages of the northern part of *North America*, are properly 3, the *Sioux* or *Nadouiſſiour*, called by the *Engliſh Norway*, the *Algonquin* or *Adirondack*, and the *Huron* or *Quatoghie* of which laſt he makes the *Iroquois* called by our author the *Mohawk*, a dialect; but adds, he knew not what language is talked by the *Cherokees*, whether the language of the *Antecoques* be a dialect of the laſt which is very poſſible, or of the *Adirondack* which I take the *Delawar* to be, I can't determine.

pick out the ſticks, roots or ſtones, and make it ſmooth on the top, a third, to cleanſe the ſtomach of the living from gall or any thing elſe that made them ſick; a fourth was a cordial to chear up their ſpirits; a fifth, to cloath their bodies and keep them warm, a ſixth, to join them in mutual friendſhip, a ſeventh, to requeſt them to let them ſettle on a branch of *Suſqehanah*, another to intreat the 5 nations that they would take a little care to protect their women from inſults while out a hunting, and the reſt for ſuch like purpoſes. This buſineſs laſted 4 hours, then we dined on *Indian* corn and ſquaſh ſoop, and boiled bread. In the afternoon, I went on the weſtern mountain as I had the day before on the eaſtern; it was very rich and full of tall timber quite to the top, the trees were linden, elm, ſugar-maple, white walnut, oak, hickery and cheſnut, beſides ginſeng, and moſt ſort of herbs that grow on our rich lime-ſtone land.

Theſe 2 days the wind was ſouth and warm and ſeveral ſhowers to the S. E. The council met at 9 o'clock, and the kettles of ſoop and a basket of dumplings were brought in for our dinner; after dinner the *Anticoques* delivered a belt and a ſtring of *Wampum*, with a complaint that the *Marylanders* had depoſed their king, and deſired leave to chuſe one for themſelves: to this, as well as all the articles opened yeſterday, the chiefs returned plauſible

but

but ſubtil anſwers; then they gave us 2 ſtrings withal, telling us, that now they had thrown water on our fire, and we were at liberty to return home when we pleaſed, they all took their leave, and bid us adieu by ſhaking hands very kindly, and ſeemingly with much affection. This night the young men getting into liquor, kept ſhouting and ſinging till morning.

3*d*, We prepared for ſetting forward, and many of the chiefs came once more to take their farewell; ſome of them brought us proviſion for our journey, we ſhook hands again and ſet out at 9.

It was greatly to my mortification, that I was forced to return for the moſt part the ſame way I came. We had intended to go through the *Mohawks* country to *Albany*, but our 2 *Indians* could not be perſuaded to go that way, tho' we offered to bear their charges, and the chiefs were not willing we ſhould leave them to paſs through the wilderneſs alone, as they came to gratify us and further our buſineſs. This day was fair, and the wind S. In the afternoon, we aſcended that lovely mountain S. W. which divides the waters that render tribute to the great ſtreams of *St. Laurence* and *Suſquehanah*. We did not directly croſs the mountain, but rode a ſmall way on its ſummit under the grateful ſhade of thoſe lofty trees that every way adorn it; and

after-

afterwards we traveled ſeveral miles on its S. W. ſide, where we enjoyed a fine proſpect of a ſpacious rich vale on our left hand. On this hill we ſaw a lime ſtone a little bigger than my head, which is rare in theſe parts.

We entered the vale at 5, then croſſed a *run* and rode along a rich level for ſeveral miles, and under the delightful protection of very tall trees that brought us to a creek, a branch of *Suſquehanah*, where we lodged ſurrounded by ginſeng.

4*th*, This was a fine day, and our traveling cool, becauſe ſhady, and the goosberries being now ripened, we were every now and then tempted to break off a bough and divert ourſelves with picking them, tho' on horſeback.

5*th*, This morning was clear and cool, and now our journey was truly charming, it is ſcarce poſſible to think the advantage we had in returning from the ſingle circumſtance of being free from thoſe ſmall gnats that tormented us in our going ſo grievouſly. But our return being moſtly in the ſame path, it will be needleſs to deſcribe the land or its productions again.

6*th*, We ſet out an hour before ſunriſe, the morning clear, at half an hour after ten we reached *Owagan*, and turned our horſes to graſs, while we ſtopped at a cabin. The *Squaw* brought in a bowl of huckle-berries,

to

to ſtay our ſtomachs, and ſoon after a large kettle full of ſmall homony boil'd in ſtrong veniſon broth; this was noble entertainment, and too good to leave any of. I heartily pityed the poor *Squaw*, for I believe ſhe had dreſſed it for herſelf and ſeveral children: ſhe alſo obliged us to accept of a fine piece of veniſon to carry away. Here we killed a rattle ſnake, the ſecond we had ſeen to day: at one we continued our journey through groves of pine of a ſtupendous ſtature; the land midling for 2 miles S. W. to the river, then a variable courſe over land of equal goodneſs, oak and hickery, ſome bottoms rich; and by three we croſs'd a fine creek where we ſpyed a grey ſquirrel which our *Indian* would have ſhot, had it not been on the top of a white oak: here we found very ſtony ground, great ſtones having been drove by one common force, into a form like that of fiſh ſcales, yet this was a mile from the river, and many yards perpendicular above the bed of it, this may be the effects of the univerſal deluge, or ſome mighty torrent of water ſince that, muſt have flowed over theſe ſtones and waſhed them thus bare. We travelled till about two hours by the ſun, and then pitched by the river, which run full W. there was high barren mountains on the upper ſide, here the river was deep and ſmooth enough for flat bottom'd veſſels, which made us heartily wiſh that we

were in a canoe, and our horſes at *Shamokin*, for we dreaded the diſmal wilderneſs between. We obſerved here an old log, which the bears had cunningly turned to pick up the ſnails, beetles, and grubbs, that had crept under it for ſhelter.

7th, We rod over middling land, producing oak, pine, and great magnolia, to the *Tohicon* town on the *Cayugo* branch; this place we arrived at by noon but ſtayed there all night, frighted by ſeveral ſhowers that paſſed over the mountains in ſight: indeed it rained a little here, I walked to the branch after dinner, and found abundance of foſſils on the banks, but the diſtance of the way, and heavy load of our baggage, were an inſurmountable bar to my bringing any home. This day the *Anticoque* interpreter that travelled with us from *Onondago*, who left the path a little to hunt, miſd our tract and hit upon an *Indian* town, 3 miles up the branch, and there picking up a *Squaw* brought her with him. The chief man of the town came to viſit us in a very friendly manner, and our interpreter telling him where we had been, what about, and how well we had ſucceeded; he teſtified abundance of ſatisfaction that peace was not like to be interrupted, he added, when he came home his people told him, we had paſſed through their town, but that we had not informed them of our buſineſs.

This

This furniſhes us with an inſtance of the *Punctilio* the *Indians* conſtantly treat travellers with, the people though earneſtly deſiring to know our commiſſion, would not take the liberty to ask us. This night our fellow traveller lodged with his occaſional wife in a corner of our cabin, and in the morning would have taken her with him at our expence, to the great vexation of Mr *Weiſar*, who thought it intolerable that an intruder ſhould gratifie his private inclinations to the ſhortning of our neceſſary proviſions, already inſufficient; as we did not take much pains to conceal this reſentment, he had determined to part with her, though with much regret, and accordingly left her when we croſſed the branch, giving her a farewell ſhout; we heard this with much joy, and I believe it was as well for the parties.

8*th*, We continued our journey without meeting any thing worth remarking, the ground we had paſſed rode over in our way out, and had lodged at the very creek we ſpent this night at.

9*th*. We travelled to a fine creek big enough to drive two mills, we ſtoped for this night at the foot of a great hill, cloathed with large *Magnolia*, 2 feet diameter and 100 feet high; perfectly ſtraight, ſhagbark-hickery, cheſnut and cheſnut oak. This is like a bridge between the N.E. and N.W. branches of *Suſquehanah*: here is alſo a ſpring from whence the water runs to both branches.

10*th August*, We set out, the sun half an ourhigh, travelled along a rich hill side, where we observ'd a pretty many rocks, then down to a *Licking-place* by 8, where our intruder who was a good way before us shot at an Elk, and having wounded him, pursued him several hours. We waited his return till 2 o'clock, *Lewis Evans* took an observation here, and found the lat. 41. a half. Set out again at 3, and travelled over fine rich ground by a creek where we lodged. I took a fancy to ascend 2 thirds of the height of a neighbouring hill, in the way I came to abundance of loose stones, and very craggy rocks, which seemed to threaten impending ruin, the soil was black and very rich, full of great wild stinging nettles, as far as I went I rolled down several loose stones to make a path for my more expeditious return. This I found the *Indians* much disturbed at, for they said it would infallibly produce rain the next day, I told them I had sufficient experience, it signified nothing, for it was my common practice to roll down stones from the top of every steep hill, and could not recollect that it ever rained the next day, and that I was almost sure to morrow would be a very fair day.

11*th*, We got out before sun rise, and rode over very good bottoms of *Linden*, *Poplar* and *Elm*, we killed a rattle snake, and soon after found a patch of *Chamerododendron*, at 8 we came to a creek winding from between the mountains

mountains on the left, then along a level to another from the right, which we croſſed to our former cabin. Quickly after we reached a bad hill, where I firſt found the *Ginſeng* in th s journey, the ſoil was black and light, with flat ſtones facing the eaſt, there we paſſed by 9, then over a bottom of laurel and pine to a creek we had ſeveral times croſſed, when obſtructed as frequently we were by hills, keeping cloſe to the water on the ſide we were riding. At 10 we left this creek for the ſake o' a ſhorter way than we came, for this purpoſe we kept a S. courſe to the top of a high but very poor hill, which we reached about a qr. after eleven, and had a proſpect ſtill to a gap we were to paſs to the river; the northſide of this hill was cloathed with tall ſpruce, while pine and beech, the top with cheſnut, ſcrubby oak, and huckle berries, the S. ſide with ſhrub, honeyſuckles &c. Our way was now over a poor pebble ſtoney vale of laurel, ſpruce firr, pine, cheſnut, and huckle berries, to a *Run* of water; where we dined on parched meal mixed with water. We left that place at half an hour after one, and ſoon found ourſelves much diſtreſſed by the broad flat ſtones on the ſide of the hill, our way lay over. Our horſes. could hardly ſtand, but even ſlipt on their ſides on our left a rivulet ruſhed from a precipice, and the mountains were ſo ſteep and cloſe to its ſides, that we were oblidged to climb to the

top

top of that on the weſt; here we ſuffered our horſes to reſt while we gathered huckle berries to eat, we travelled on the top a good way all ſtony to the point, which was very narrow, and the flat ſtones on each ſide turned up like the ridge of a houſe, this reminded me of *Dr. Burnets Theory*, and his ingenious *Hypotheſis*, to account for the formation of mountains. The deſcent was moderate, the land middling, oak, cheſnut and huckle-berries: we found a *Run* here and repoſed ourſelves for this night, having ſupped on veniſon, ſhot by our *Indians* who left us on the hill that evening. It was fair and pleaſant, and the great green graſs-hopper began to ſing (*Catedidiſt*) theſe were the firſt I obſerved this year. Before day break it began to rain, it laſted about an hour and then ceaſed. The *Indians* inſiſted that was cauſed by the ſtones I rolled down 2 days ago, I told the *Antecoque Indians* if their obſervations had any truth it ſhould have been the day before, which was remarkably fair. To this he cuningly replyed, that our *Almanacks* often prognoſticated on a day, and yet the rain did not come within two days.

12*th*, This day, the land produced middling oak, pitch, pine, and huckleberries, ſometimes pebbles and a ſhallow ſoil. We dined on veniſon (partly our own, and partly given us by the *Indians*) at a deſerted town about 7 miles off: this is called the *French* town, from a *French*

woman

woman who married a *Delawar Indian*, and conformed to their manners; ſhe left ſeveral children behind her, who were now come to look after their horſes and break the young ones. It rained very faſt for an hour, and in the midſt of it about half a ſcore of the 5 *Nations*, who had been on the back of *S. Carolina* to fight the *Catawba's*, paſſed very faſt through the town with one poor female priſoner, they ſhouted couragiouſly, but we learnt no particulars of this great enterprize: about 3 it cleared up, we croſſed the creek and travelled about 10 miles, moſt of the way good rich land, extenſive bottoms and high graſs: I ſaw one lovely white *Lychnus* 5 feet high. Near night it began to rain, and we made a bark cabin, which kept us pretty dry, the rain continued all night with thunder.

13*th*, It cleared up early in the morning. We moved forward to our firſt cabin, where we dined on parched meal, which is ſome of the beſt *Indians* travelling proviſion. We had of it 2 bags, each a gallon, from the *Indians* at *Onondago*, the preparation of it is thus. They take the corn and parch it in hot aſhes, till it becomes brown, then clean it, pound it in a mortar and ſift it; this powder is mixt with ſugar. About 1 qr. of a pint, diluted in a pint of water, is a hearty traveling dinner, when 100 miles from any inhabitants: about 2 hours after ſeting out we came near the river. Here

5 of us rode over a great rattle ſnake unſeen and unhurt. I perceived him juſt as my mare was over him; a little further we ſaw another juſt by us. We travelled till near ſun ſet, when 2 of our *Indians* were taken with a bad fit of an ague, this obliged us to encamp by the river, where our horſes had excellent food. At about 20 rods from it I ſaw a bank much higher up, being near 30 feet perpendicular above the ſurface of the water, raiſed gradually to this height by the frequent floods, which this weſtern branch is much ſubject too. Thus by ſand continually heaped upon the firm ſand, it is become a ſtrong ſand bank.

14*th*, We paſſed through an old town, where we found plumbs, peaches, and noble cluſters of large grapes growing, very deep in ſand, left about them by the flood I mentioned juſt now; a little farther the land was rich and low, covered with high weeds and graſs, with locuſt, linden, walnut and elm, the higher land with elm and oak. At 11 o'clock we reached *Shamokin*, here we boiled dumplins and had plenty of water melons; we ſtayed all night.

15*th*, Next day by noon we came to *Mohonyoy*, where we ſtayed dinner, in the afternoon we rode over ſome ſtony poor land, then piney, white oak, and ſome middling land.

16*th*, This morning I was entertained with the Muſical howling of a wolf, which I had not

not heard for many years, but my companions were too faſt aſleep to hear it, we ſet out early and by one had croſſed the 3 ridges of the *blue mountains*, and the 2 ſpruce vales, were the branches of *Swatara* ran, and dined in St. *Anthonys Wilderneſs*, as *Count Zinzendorf* has named it. We mounted again at 2 and climbed up the S. ridge, and at the top let our horſes reſt, for they were cover'd with ſweat. In the mean time we look'd for water, but found none, in this ſearch we found an *Indian Squaw* drying huckle berries. This is done by ſetting 4 forked ſticks, in the ground, about 3 or 4 feet high, then others a-croſs, over them the ſtalks of our common *Jacea* or *Saratula*, on theſe lie the berries, as malt is ſpread on the hair cloth over the kiln. Underneath ſhe had kindled a ſmoke fire, which one of her children was tending. The quantity of their huckle berries growing on and between theſe ridges, is prodigious, the top of the S. ridge is pretty good land, and affords a fine proſpect of the great and fertile vale of *Tulpihocken*, the ridge itſelf is pleaſant. When we had reſted ourſelves and our poor tired horſes, we lead them moſt of the way for 20 miles, this gave us an opportunity of gathering what quantity we pleaſed of their berries, tho' we eat rather more than I thought we might ſafely venture on, yet we found no ill conſequence from our exceſs. When we were deſcended we had but

2 miles to a houſe, where we lodged, it rained faſt in the evening and great part of the night itſelf. And we heartily congratulated ourſelves on the enjoyment of good bread, butter and milk, in a comfortable houſe, and clean ſtraw to ſleep on, free from fleas.

17*th*, Though my mare was ſo lame, ſhe had not ſtirred 20 yards all night, yet we got this day by noon to Mr *Conrad Weiſars*; but under the difficulty of carrying my baggage good part of the way on my back, beſides being ſcarcely able to get her along: when ſhe came into the paſture, ſhe ſtretched herſelf at full length and roſe no more for 24 hours. In the afternoon I ſpent my time on Mr *Weiſar's* high hill, gathering of ſeeds: here the great vale and blue mountains form a lovely proſpect.

18*th*, I borrowed a horſe of Mr *Weiſar*, and ſet up all night at *Monatawony*.

19*th*, Before ſunſet, I had the pleaſure of ſeeing my own houſe and family: I found them in good health, and with a ſincere mind, I returned thanks to the almighty power, that had preſerved us all.

In this journey into the heart of a country, ſtill in the poſſeſſion of it's original inhabitants: I could not help ſometimes to divert the length of the way by reflecting on their manners, their complection ſo different from ours, and their Traditions: this led me to conjecture at their origin, or whence

whence they came into *America*, and at what time. Perhaps it may be equally hard to diſprove or to prove that they were originally placed here by the ſame creator who made the world, as ſoon as this part of it became habitable, for it is reaſonable to ſuppoſe the almighty power provided for the peopling of this, as well as of the other ſide of the globe, by a ſuitable ſtock of the human ſpecies.

However if we are to account for their paſſing from what is called the old world, there are many relations of voyages hither from the North of *Europe*, previous to that of *Columbus*, which though dark and uncertain, are neither evidently fabulous, nor even improbable from either the length or difficulties of the way. That the *Norwegians*, the poſſeſſors of *Iceland*, for many ages paſt had colonies in *Greenland*, is a fact too well atteſted to admit a doubt, from *Greenland* the ſhort paſſage croſs *Daon's Streights* brings us into the continent of *America*. If theſe colonies be put out of the queſtion, it is ſcarce poſſible to think, that of the numerous fleets with which the *Danes* and *Norwegians* terrified continually the reſt of *Europe*, none tempted by the hopes of gain, or drove by ſtreſs of weather, ſhould ever fall in with the coaſts of *Newfoundland* or *Gulph of St. Lawrence*. If it be objected that the navigators of thoſe times

times were too unskilfull to attempt ſuch a diſcovery, does it not furniſh us with a reaſon to account for its being made by chance. If this paſſage was ever publickly known, which is more probable it was not, might not the knowledge of it be loſt as that to *Greenland*, and can we be ſure that the *Greenland* of the *Norwegians* was not more to the ſouthward of that country now ſo called. I am not ignorant that theſe traditions of the *Norwegian* colonies, as well as many others to the ſame point, particularly that of prince *Madoc* has been treated as meer fiction; but let us not forget that *Herodotus's* account of the doubling the Cape of *Good Hope* has been treated ſo likewiſe too, tho' the fact be now eſtabliſhed to the degree of moral certainty.

Again, it is not unlikely but there may be land moſt of the way from *America* to *Japan*, at leaſt iſlands, ſeparated only by narrow channels, and in ſight, or nearly ſo, of one another. I have been lately informed of an *Indian* woman, well known by a perſon in *Canada*, and after an interval of many years met again by the ſame perſon in *Chineſe Tartary*; he could not be convinced ſhe was the ſame, till by diſcourſe he had with her, ſhe told him, that being made captive by a neighbouring nation, ſhe had during many years been tranſferred by captivity, ſale, or gift, from one nation to another till ſhe was brought where

he

he found her. If this be true it muſt be *Continent* moſt of the way.

Another manner of peopling this ſide of the earth, particularly *S. America*, might be by ſome veſſels of the *Egyptians*, *Phœnicians*, or *Carthaginians* being blown off the coaſt of *Guinea* to that of *Brazil*, or the *Antilles* in their courſe, to or from the cape of *Good-Hope*; in which caſe, for want of thoſe *Arts* and *Sciences* which are not to be found in *America*, before it's plantation by the whites, and which are ſeldom to be met with in a ſhips crew, they muſt take to that way of life our *Indians* now follow. This conjecture is the more probable, as even in the ſtate of perfection, the art of navigation is now arrived at, this accident is often unavoidable.

But whatever was their origin, our ſix nations may be now thus characteriſed: they are a ſubtile, prudent, and judicious people in their councils, indefatigable, crafty, and revengeful in their wars, the men lazy and indolent at home, the women continual ſlaves, modeſt, very loving, and obedient to their husbands. As to the natural diſpoſition of theſe *Nations*, they are grave, ſolid, and ſtill in their recreations, as well as in their councils. The *Delawar's* and *Suſquehanah's*, on the contrary, are very noiſy in their recreations, and loud in diſcourſe; but all when in liquor, whether men or women, take the liberty of

ſhouting

ſhouting, ſinging, and dancing at an extravagant rate, till the operations of the liquor ceaſe; or being wearied they fall aſleep.

The ſix nations enjoy the character of being the moſt warlike people in *N. America*, this they have acquired by the uninterrupted ſtate of war, they have continued in probably near 200 years, and which has been attended with ſuch ſucceſs, that has made them the dread of people above 1000 miles diſtant. It cannot however be ſuppoſed, but they have frequently met with ſeveral checks, eſpecially ſince the *French* aſſiſted all their enemies openly near theſe 100 years paſt.

Their wars were formerly carried on with much more cruelty then of late, their priſoners who had the misfortune to fall into their hands, being generally tortured to death, now their numbers being very much diminiſhed by conſtant wars, with both diſtant and neighbouring nations, and perhaps a good deal partly by the ſpirituous liquors, and diſeaſes the Europeans have brought among them. They very politically ſtrive to ſtrengthen themſelves not only by alliances with their neighbours, but the priſoners they take; they are almoſt always accepted by the relations of a warrior ſlain in his place, and thus a boy of 15, is ſometimes called father by men of 30. This naturalizes them of courſe, and unites them into the tribe the deceaſed belonged to. This

cuſtom

cuſtom is as antient as our knowledge of them, but when their number of warriours was more than twice as many as now, the relations would more frequently refuſe to adopt the priſoner, but rather chuſe to gratify their thirſt of revenge.

Their religious notions are very confuſed and much mixed with ſuperſtition. Yet they ſeem not only to acknowledge a deity, but even to worſhip him in unity and ſpirit. What benefits they receive, they aſcribe to a divine power. They have ſtrange notions of ſpirits, conjuration, and witchcraft: theſe are agreeable to their blindneſs, and want of proper education among them, for I have always obſerved, that the belief of ſupernatural powers in a meer man, generally prevails in proportion to a Perſon's ignorance.

A Letter from Mr. KALM, *a Gentleman of* Sweden, *now on his Travels in* America, *to his Friend in* Philadelphia; *containing a particular Account of the* GREAT FALL *of* Niagara.

SIR, *Albany, Sep.* 2, 1750.

AFter a pretty long journey made in a ſhort time, I am come back to this town. You may remember, that when I took my leave of you, I told you, I would this ſummer, if time permitted, take a view of *Niagara* FALL, eſteemed

eſteemed one of the greateſt curioſities in the World. When I came laſt year from *Quebec*, you enquir'd of me ſeveral particulars concerning this fall; and I told you what I heard of it in *Canada*, from ſeveral *French* gentlemen who had been there: but this was ſtill all hearſay; I could not aſſure you of the truth of it, becauſe I had not then ſeen it myſelf, and ſo it could not ſatisfy my own, much leſs your curioſity. Now, ſince I have been on the ſpot, it is in my power to give you a more perfect and ſatisfactory deſcription of it.

After a fatiguing travel, firſt on horſeback thro' the country of the *Six Indian Nations*, to *Oſwego*, and from thence in a Canoe upon lake *Ontario*, I came on the 12th of *Auguſt* in the evening to *Niagara* fort. The *French* there ſeemed much perplexed at my firſt coming, imagining I was an *Engliſh* officer, who under pretext of ſeeing *Niagara* Falls, came with ſome other view; but as ſoon as I ſhew'd them my paſſports, they chang'd their behaviour, and received me with the greateſt civility. *Niagara* Fall is ſix *French* leagues from *Niagara* Fort. you firſt go three leagues by water up *Niagara* river, and then three leagues over the carrying place. As it was late when I arriv'd at the Fort, I could not the ſame day go to the Fall, but I prepar'd myſelf to do it the next morning. The commandant

of

of the Fort, Monſr. *Beaujon*, invited all the officers and gentlemen there to ſupper with him. I had read formerly almoſt all the authors that have wrote any thing about this Fall; and the laſt year in *Canada*, had made ſo many enquiries about it, that I thought I had a pretty good Idea of it, and now at ſupper, requeſted the gentlemen to tell me all they knew and thought worth notice relating to it, which they accordingly did. I obſerved that in many things they all agreed, in ſome things they were of different opinions, of all which I took particular notice. When they had told me all they knew, I made ſeveral queries to them concerning what I had read and heard of it, whether ſuch and ſuch a thing was true or not? and had their anſwers on every circumſtance. But as I have found by experience in my other travels, that very few obſerve nature's works with accuracy, or report the truth preciſely, I cannot now be entirely ſatisfied without ſeeing with my own eyes whenever 'tis in my power, Accordingly the next morning, being the 13th of *Auguſt*, at break of day, I ſet out for the Fall. The commandant had given orders to two of the Officers of the Fort to go with me and ſhew me every thing, and alſo ſent by them an order to Monſr. *Jonqueire*, who had liv'd ten years by the carrying-place, and

knew every thing worth notice of the Fall, better than any other perſon, to go with me, and ſhew and tell me whatever he knew. A little before we came to the carrying-place, the water of *Niagara* River grew ſo rapid, that four men in a light birch canoe, had much difficulty to get up thither. Canoes can go half a league above the beginning of the carrying-place, tho' they muſt work againſt a water extremely rapid; but higher up it is quite impoſſible, the whole courſe of the water for two leagues and a half up to the great Fall, being a ſeries of ſmaller Falls, one under another, in which the greateſt canoe or Battoe would in a moment be turn'd upſide down. We went aſhore therefore, and walk'd over the carrying-place, having beſides the high and ſteep ſide of the river, two great hills to aſcend one above the other. Here on the carrying-place I ſaw above 200 *Indians*, moſt of them belonging to the *Six Nations*, buſy in carrying packs of furs, chiefly of deer and bear, over the carrying-place. You would be ſurpriz'd to ſee what abundance of theſe things are brought every day over this place. An *Indian* gets 20 pence for ever pack he carries over, the diſtance being three leagues. Half an hour paſt 10 in the morning we came to the great Fall, which I found as follows. to the river (or rather ſtrait,) runs here from S. S. E. to N. N. W and the rocks of the great

Fall

Fall croſſes it, not in a right line; but forming almoſt the figure of a ſemicircle or horſe ſhoe. Above the Fall, in the middle of the river is an iſland, lying alſo S. S. E. and N. N. W. or parallel with the ſides of the river; its length is about 7 or 8 french arpents (an arpent being 180 feet.) the lower end of this Iſland is juſt at the perpendicular edge of the Fall. On both ſides of this iſland runs all the water that comes from the lakes of *Canada*, viz. Lake *Superior*, lake *Miſchigan*, lake *Huron*, and lake *Erie*, which you know are rather ſmall ſeas than lakes, and have beſides a great many large rivers that empty their water in them, of which the greateſt part comes down this *Niagara* Fall. Before the water comes to this iſland, it runs but ſlowly, compar'd with its motion when it approaches the iſland, where it grows the moſt rapid water in the World, runing with a ſurprizing ſwiftneſs before it comes to the Fall; it is quite white, and in many places is thrown high up into the air! The greateſt and ſtrongeſt battoes would here in a moment be turn'd over and over. The water that goes down on the weſt ſide of the iſland, is more rapid, in greater abundance, whiter, and ſeems almoſt to outdo an arrow in ſwiftneſs. When you are at the Fall, and look up the river, you may ſee, that the river above the Fall is every where exceeding ſteep, almoſt as the ſide of a

hill. When all this water comes to the very Fall, there it throws itſelf down perpendicular! It is beyond all belief the ſurprize when you ſee this! I cannot with words expreſs how amazing it is! You cannot ſee it without being quite terrified; to behold ſo vaſt a quantity of water falling headlong from a ſurpriſing height! I doubt not but you have a deſire to learn the exact height of this great Fall. Father *Hennepin*, ſuppoſes it 600 Feet perpendicular; but he has gained little credit in *Canada*; the name of honour they give him there, is *un grand Menteur*, or *The great Liar*; he writes of what he ſaw in places where he never was. 'tis true he ſaw this Fall: but as it is the way of ſome travellers to magnify every thing, ſo has he done with regard to the fall of *Niagara*. This humour of travellers, has occaſioned me many diſappointments in my travels, having ſeldom been ſo happy as to find the wonderful things that had been related by others. For my part, who am not fond of the *Marvellous*, I like to ſee things juſt as they are, and ſo to relate them. Since Father *Hennepin*'s time. this Fall by all the accounts that have been given of it, has grown leſs and leſs; and thoſe who have meaſur'd it with mathematical inſtruments find the perpendicular fall of the water to be exactly 137 feet. Monſr. *Morandrier*, the king's engineer in *Canada*,

Canada, aſſured me, and gave it me alſo under his hand, that 137 Feet was preciſely the height of it; and all the *French* Gentlemen that were preſent with me at the Fall, did agree with him, without the leaſt contradiction: it is true, thoſe who have try'd to meaſure it with a line, find it ſometimes 140, ſometimes 150 feet, and ſometimes more; but the reaſon is, it cannot that way be meaſured with any certainty, the water carrying away the Line.——When the water is come down to the bottom of the rock of the Fall, it jumps back to a very great heighth in the air; in other places it is white as milk or ſnow; and all in motion like a boiling chaldron.——You may remember, to what a great diſtance *Henepin* ſays the noiſe of this great Fall may be heard. All the gentlemen who were with me, agreed, that the fartheſt one can hear it, is 15 leagues, and that very ſeldom. When the air is quite calm, you can hear it to *Niagara* Fort; but ſeldom at other times, becauſe when the wind blows, the waves of Lake *Ontario* make too much noiſe there againſt the Shore.——They inform'd me, that when they hear at the Fort the noiſe of the Fall, louder than ordinary, they are ſure a North Eaſt Wind will follow, which never fails: this ſeems wonderful, as the Fall is South Weſt from the Fort: and one would imagine it to be rather a ſign of a contrary wind. Sometimes,

times, 'tis ſaid, the Fall makes a much greater noiſe than at other times; and this is look'd upon as a certain mark of approaching bad weather, or rain; the *Indians* here hold it always for a ſure ſign. When I was there, it did not make an extraordinary great noiſe: juſt by the Fall, we could eaſily hear what each other ſaid, without ſpeaking much louder than common when converſing in other places. I do not know how others have found ſo great a noiſe here, perhaps it was at certain times, as abovementioned. From the Place where the water falls, there riſe abundance of vapours, like the greateſt and thickeſt ſmoak, ſometimes more, ſometimes leſs: theſe vapours riſe high in the air when it is calm, but are diſpers'd by the wind when it blows hard. If you go nigh to this vapour or fog, or if the wind blows it on you, it is ſo penetrating, that in a few minutes you will be as wet as if you had been under water. I got two young *Frenchmen* to go down, to bring me from the ſide of the Fall at the bottom, ſome of each of the ſeveral kinds of herbs, ſtones and ſhells they ſhould find there; they returned in a few minutes, and I really thought they had fallen into the water: they were obliged to ſtrip themſelves quite naked, and hang their clothes in the ſun to dry. When you are on the other Eaſt ſide of the Lake *Ontario*, a great many leagues from the Fall,

you

you may, every clear and calm morning ſee the vapours of the Fall riſing in the air; you would think all the woods thereabouts were ſet on fire by the *Indians*, ſo great is the apparent ſmoak. In the ſame manner you may ſee it on the Weſt ſide of the lake *Erie*, a great many leagues off.

Several of the *French* gentlemen told me, that when birds come flying into this fog or ſmoak of the fall, they fall down and periſh in the Water; either becauſe their wings are become wet, or that the noiſe of the fall aſtoniſhes them, and they know not were to go in the Dark: but others were of opinion, that ſeldom or never any bird periſhes there in that manner; becauſe, as they all agreed, among the abundance of birds found dead below the fall, there are no other ſorts then ſuch as live and ſwim frequently in the water; as ſwans, geeſe, ducks, water-hens, teal, and the like. And very often great flocks of them are ſeen going to deſtruction in this manner: they ſwim in the river above the fall, and ſo are carried down lower and lower by the water, and as water-fowl commonly take great delight in being carry'd with the ſtream, ſo here they indulge themſelves in enjoying this pleaſure ſo long, till the ſwiftneſs of the water becomes ſo great, that 'tis no longer poſſible for them to riſe, but they are driven down the precipice, and periſh. They are obſerv'd when they draw

draw nigh the fall, to endeavour with all their might, to take wing and leave the water, but they cannot. In the months of *September* and *October*, ſuch abundant quantities of dead waterfowl are found every morning below the Fall, on the ſhore, that the garriſon of the fort for a long time live chiefly upon them; beſides the fowl, they find alſo ſeveral ſorts of dead fiſh, alſo deer, bears, aud other animals which have tried to croſs the water above the fall; the larger animals are generally found broken to pieces. Juſt below the fall the water is not rapid, but goes all in circles and whirls like a boiling pot; which however doth not hinder the *Indians* going upon it in ſmall canoes a fiſhing; but a little lower begins the ſmaller fall. When you are above the fall, and look down, your head begins to turn: the *French* who have been here 100 times, will ſeldom venture to look down, without at the ſame time keeping faſt hold of ſome tree with one hand.

It was formerly thought impoſſible for any body living to come at the Iſland that is in the middle of the fall: but an accident that happen'd 12 years ago, or thereabouts, made it appear otherwiſe. The hiſtory is this. Two *Indians* of the *Six Nations* went out from *Niagara* fort, to hunt upon an iſland that is in the middle of the river, or ſtrait, above the great fall, on which there uſed to be abundance of deer. They took ſome *French* brandy with them

them, from the fort, which they taſted ſeveral times as they were going over the carrying place; and when they were in the canoe, they took now and then a dram, and ſo went along up the ſtrait towards the Iſland where they propos'd to hunt; but growing ſleepy, they laid themſelves down in the canoe, which getting looſe drove back with the ſtream, farther and farther down till it came nigh that iſland that is in the middle of the fall. Here one of them, awakened by the noiſe of the fall. cries out to the other, that they were gone! yet they try'd if poſſible to ſaveliſe. This iſland was nigheſt, and with much working they got on ſhore there. At firſt they were glad; but when they had conſider'd every thing, they thought themſelves hardly in a better ſtate than if they had gone down the fall, ſince they had now no other choice, than either to throw themſelves down the ſame, or to periſh with hunger. But hard neceſſity put them on invention. At the lower end of the iſland the rock is perpendicular, and no water is running there. This iſland has plenty of wood, they went to work directly and made a ladder or ſhrouds of the bark of lindentree, (which is very tough and ſtrong,) ſo long 'till they could with it reach the water below; one end of this bark ladder they tied faſt to a great tree that grew at the ſide of the rock above the fall, and let the other end down

to the water. So they went down along their new-invented ſtairs, and when they came to the bottom in the middle of the fall, they reſted a little; and as the water next below the fall is not rapid, as beforementioned, they threw themſelves out into it, thinking to ſwim on ſhore. I have ſaid before, that one part of the fall is on one ſide of the iſland, the other on the other ſide. Hence it is, that the waters of the two cataracts running againſt each other, turn back againſt the rock that is juſt under the iſland. Therefore, hardly had the *Indians* began to ſwim, before the waves of the eddy threw them with violence againſt the rock from whence they came. They tried it ſeveral times, but at laſt grew weary; and being often thrown againſt the rock they were much bruis'd, and the skin of their bodies torn in many places. So they were oblig'd to climb up their ſtairs again to the iſland, not knowing what to do. After ſome time they perceived *Indians* on the ſhore, to whom they cried out. Theſe ſaw and pity'd them, but gave them little hopes of help: yet they made haſte down to the fort, and told the commander where two of their brethren were. He perſuaded them to try all poſſible means of relieving the two poor *Indians*; and it was done in this manner. The water that runs on the eaſt ſide of this iſland is ſhallow, eſpecially

a little above the iſland towards the eaſtern ſhore. The commandant cauſed poles to be made and pointed with iron: two *Indians* determined to walk to this iſland by the help of theſe poles, to ſave the other poor creatures, or periſh themſelves. They took leave of all their friends as if they were going to death. Each had two ſuch poles in his hands, to ſet againſt the bottom of the ſtream, to keep them ſteady. So they went and got to the iſland, and having given poles to the two poor *Indians* there, they all returned ſafely to the main. Thoſe two *Indians* who in the above mentioned manner were firſt brought to this iſland, are yet alive. They were nine days on the iſland, and almoſt ſtarved to death.* —Now ſince the way to this iſland has been found, the *Indians* go there often to kill deer, which having tried to croſs the river above the fall, were driven upon the iſland by the ſtream: but if the King of *France* would give me all *Canada*, I would not venture to go to this iſland; and were you to ſee it, Sir, I am ſure you would have the ſame ſentiment. On the weſt ſide of this iſland are ſome ſmall iſlands or rocks of no conſequence. The eaſt

* Theſe *Indians* had better fortune than 10 or 12 *Utowawa's* who attempting to eſcape here the purſuit of their Enemies of the *Six Nations*, were carried down the Cataract, by the violence of the ſtream and every one periſhed.——No part even of their Canoe being ever ſeen again.

ſide of the river is nearly perpendicular, the weſt ſide more ſloping. In former times a part of the rock at the Fall which is on the weſt ſide of the iſland, hung over in ſuch a manner, that the water which fell perpendicularly from it, left a vacancy below, ſo that people could go under between the rock and the water; but the prominent part ſome years ſince broke off and fell down; ſo that there is now no poſſibility of going between the falling water and the rock, as the water now runs cloſe to it all the way down.——The breadth of the Fall, as it runs into a ſemicircle, is reckon'd to be about 6 Arpents. The iſland is in the middle of the Fall, and from it to each ſide is almoſt the ſame breadth: the breadth of the iſland at its lower end is two thirds of an Arpent, or thereabouts.——Below the Fall in the holes of the rocks, are great plenty of Eels, which the *Indians* and *French* catch with their hands without other means; I ſent down two *Indian* boys, who directly came up with about twenty fine ones.—— Every day, when the Sun ſhines, you ſee here from 10 o'clock in the morning to 2 in the afternoon, below the Fall, and under you, when you ſtand at the ſide over the Fall, a glorious rainbow and ſometimes two rainbows, one within the other.

I was

I was ſo happy to be at the Fall on a fine clear day, and it was with great delight I view'd this rainbow, which had almoſt all the colours you ſee in a rainbow in the air. The more vapours, the brighter and clearer is the rainbow. I ſaw it on the Eaſt ſide of the Fall in the bottom under the place where I ſtood, but above the water. When the wind carries the vapours from that place, the rainbow is gone, but appears again as ſoon as new vapours come. From the Fall to the landing above the Fall, where the canoes from Lake *Erie* put on ſhore, (or from the Fall to the upper end of the carrying-place) is half a mile. Lower the canoes dare not come, leſt they ſhould be obliged to try the fate of the two *Indians*, and perhaps with leſs ſucceſs.—— They have often found below the Fall pieces of human bodies, perhaps of drunken *Indians*, that have unhappily came down the Fall. I was told at *Oſwego*, that in *October*, or thereabouts, ſuch plenty of feathers are to be found here below the Fall, that a man in a days time can gather enough of them for ſeveral beds, which feathers they ſaid came off the birds kill'd at the Fall. I ask'd the *French*, if this was true? They told me they had never ſeen any ſuch thing; but that if the feathers were pick'd off the dead birds, there might be ſuch a quantity. The *French* told me, they had often thrown whole great trees into the

the water above, to see them tumble down the Fall. They went down with surprising swiftness, but could never be seen afterwards; whence it was thought there was a bottomless deep or abyss just under the Fall. I am also of Opinion, that there must be a vast deep here; yet I think if they had watched very well, they might have found the trees at some distance below the Fall. The rock of the Fall consists of a grey limestone.

Here you have, Sir, a short but exact description of this famous *Niagara* cataract: you may depend on the truth of what I write. You must excuse me if you find in my acccount, no extravagant wonders. I cannot make nature otherwise than I find it. I had rather it should be said of me in time to come, that I related things as they were, and that all is found to agree with my Description; than to be esteem'd a false Relater. I have seen some other things in this my journey, an account of which I know would gratify your curiosity; but time at present will not permit me to write more; and I hope shortly to see you. I am, &c.

PETER KALM.

FINIS.